

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 1**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775  
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775**

**Part 7 of 8**

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I will enclose this letter to my private agent or to one of my Children at School in England, that the Address may not be seen here. The letters and the last dispatches were opened by the Committee of Inspection, at South Carolina.

few People to be trusted, or any Dependence on what they write, in their News papers concerning the Army or themselves.

And the best way to Send Your Lordships dispatches will be to Barbados or Antigua, as oportunity May offer.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

**1 Aug.**

GENERAL ORDERS ISSUED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 1, 1775.

Parole Gibraltar

Countersign Fairfield

The General thanks Major [Benjamin] Tupper, and the Officers and Soldiers under his Command, for their gallant and soldierlike behaviour in possessing themselves of the enemy's post at the Light House, and for the Number of Prisoners they took there, and doubts not, but the Continental Army, will be as famous for their mercy as for their valour.

Two Sub[altern]s. two serjeants, one Drum, and thirty Rank and File, to parade at Head Quarters at Noon; to escort the prisoners to Worcester. The Commanding Officer will receive his orders from the Adjutant General.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 381.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

Ordered, That the Message from the honourable Board, relative to the distressed situation of the Eastern parts of the Colony, be recommitted, and that Mr. Greenleaf, Colonel Thompson, and Dr. Baylis be added to the Committee in [the] room of Colonel Freeman, Major Brooks, and Captain White.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider the Accounts of Mr. John Derby, and Mr. Richard Derby, Jun. reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony to Mr. John Derby, or his order, the sum of fifty-seven Pounds and eight Pence Sterling, agreeable to his Account.

Resolved, That there be paid to Richard Derby, Jun., Esq. or to his order, out of the publick Treasury of this Colony the sum of one hundred and sixteen Pounds, four Shillings, and four Pence half-penny, in full of his Account [Endorsed] In Council, August 1, 1775: Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 296-298, from Mass. Arch.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston August 1st 1775,

Sir Lieutenant Dickinson representing to me that he is unable to act Commander on Board the *Symetry* with any Respect of being useful to the service, or without injuring his own Reputation: I am under the necessity of ordering the *Symetry* away, and Applying to you for the Aid of One of His Majestys Vessels to take her station.

I send this by Lieutenant Dickinson who will be able to explain himself.

I am with great Regard, Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Boston 1st August 1775

I beg your Excellency's Pardon for not sooner Answering your Letter of the 28th but I immediately ordered Captain [John] Robinson to arrange the Transports for their greater Security.

I expect the *Merlin* in every day, when the *Scorpion* now in the Light House Passage shall take the *Symmetry's* Birth. In the mean time, if your Excellency consents, I will send a Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry*, who will prevent the irregularities complained of and carry on the Service that Mr Dickinson from his Situation, cannot do – And If 'tis likewise agreeable to your Excellency he shall remain in the *Symmetry* until I can place a Twenty Gunship there, which I would rather do, than the *Scorpion* who, at present, I do not think sufficiently strong for that Service.

If your Excellency is of my Opinion: I will give The Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry* any Orders Your Excellency shall think necessary, or he shall be directed to receive them immediately from Yourself as your Excellency shall think best for the Service. I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir,  
[&c.] Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775 Moor'd off the Lighthouse Point Alderton SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E Light-  
Tuesday 1 house NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E  
A M Empd making Boarding Nettings &c. Do W. [P M] Empd  
as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775 The Land off Cape Ann NNW 4 or 5 Leag.  
Tuesday 1 at 10 A M Spoke a Brigg from Boston for Nova Scotia. at 5 P M  
Saw a Sail in the S E gave Chace Spoke a Schooner from St  
Eustatia took her in Tow <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. The *Byfield* schooner, John Fletcher, master, from Dominica and St. Eustatia for Gloucester with rum and sugar. The vessel was taken up as an armed schooner and the cargo sold in Boston. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT AT RHODE ISLAND, TO  
ALEXANDER BRYMER, PRINCIPAL AGENT IN AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sr

Newport August 1st 1775

Your favors 30. June – & 12 July pr the *Peggy*. I duly recd I forbear complaining of my hard fate in this affair, I nevertheless am much Indebted for your kind intention to serve me a line from me which Mr Lostaw undertook to have conveyed to you notes the manner of adjusting the *Peggys* Freight as compromised wth him which I hope you will sepperate from the order for the Cargo. – your Disbursments for the *Peggy*. £17.8. is to your Credit, the Beef furnished the *Rose* is Included in her present Vouchers which has been in the Pursers hands this 14 days for signing have wrote him twice with the adition of Messages to which are not favoured with any answer why they are not executed or signed my accos are closed to 15. July except this Vouchr to compleat them Ballance in my favor upwards of £600 Lawfull money – a Vessel from this in 15 or 20 days for London affords me a conveyance by whom will forward the first Vouchers of each sett for both Ships the 2d shall be handed you with my Accounts pr. the first Vessell for Boston after I am in Possession of them— the Impracticability of Negotiating Bills here in a Short time, the Total Stop of Trade in September – with every Resourse for obtaining Provisions from the Neighbouring Colonies being cut off it puts it out of my Power to Support the Contract any longer for want of money &c &c – I therefore must request you will asoon as Possible fall upon some expedient to Exonerate Me from the Discharge of the Same – Shoud our next news from London carry with it the apearance of no Accomodation bills coud not be negotiated here for any Discot nay am Doubtfull if coud raise money on them now a[t] 10 PCt – & most People of money woud quit the town – as many have – conveyances are very uncertain Altho I cannot obtain the *Roses* Vouchers from Lewis <sup>2</sup> – I thought it best to forward my acct as I closed them with that Voucher Includd therein – also the *Swans* first Vouchers finished – & must depend upon Conveying the *Roses* when obtain them the account of which you have Inclosed – with my account Currt ballance in my favor £606.5.3 which please to confirm in your next with bills for the Ballance – & acct. Exchange I may have a few hundred Stg. in money to Spare If I coud place in Secure hands in England with a small Interest 'till our Troubles end should be glad of bills for it at 10 PCt which I suppose can be had of Mr. loyd – our part says 15 PCt of this please to advise me where to place it, Merchts having large sums due from this Country must stop – for want of remittance – therefore unsafe – the 15000 Bread noted in my former letter has been since drawn for a 15/, Stg PC – I am Dr Sir [&c.]

C C

[Endorsed] Copy Letter To A Brymer August 1st 1775

1. Champlin Papers, III, 85, RIHS.
2. Purser of H.M.S. *Rose*.



*(Left) Governor John Wentworth. By John S. Copley, 1769.*



*(Right) Christopher Champlin. By Charles B. J. F. de St. Memin, c. 1800.*

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*<sup>1</sup>

[Lake Champlain]

August 1<sup>t</sup> [1775] weighed anchor & proceeded down the Lake nothing remarkable.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>[New York] Die Martis, 9 ho. A.M. August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1775

The President informed the Congress that the Recorder had waited on him at the door, and informed him that the boat which had been building by order of the Committee of Safety was sawed to pieces, and entirely destroyed.

Ordered, That this matter be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 95-97.

BILL FOR BUILDING BOAT FOR H.M.S. *Asia*<sup>1</sup>

[New York] August th 1 1775

Mr Joseph Totten and Crosfeild	To Henry Sheaffer	
for building A boat for the Ship <i>Asia</i>		
this boat abt 28 feet in length a 18s pr foot		£25 4 0
The boat not finshed by one Quarter		6 6 0
		<hr/>
the ballance		£18 18 0
[Endorsed] Augt 11 1775	Examined & Allowd in the Sum of Eighteen pounds	
Eighteen Shillings		

Rich<sup>d</sup> Yates  
H Braster  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Verplanck

To Peter Van Bergh Livingston Esqr

1. Revolutionary Manuscripts, vol. 1, NYSL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. [1775.]

*Resolved*, That Cap<sup>t</sup>. Nichalos Biddle be appointed to the Command of the Boat called the *Franklin*,<sup>2</sup> now building by Emanuel Eyres. And that Cap<sup>t</sup>., John Hammilton be appointed to the command of the Boat called the *Congress*, now building by Eman[ue]l Eyres. And that Cap<sup>t</sup>. [Henry] Dougherty, now Commander of the Boat *Experiment*, be removed to the Boat called the *Washington*, now building by Mr. John Wharton.

And that Allen Moore, Lieut. of the Boat *Experiment*, be appointed Commander of the said Boat.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 296.

2. Extract from James Biddle's second draft of a memorial to his brother Nicholas: "in 1775 the Disputes between Gr Bn & America growing very serious and Congress being desirous of preparing for the worst if a Rupture should ensue some Gentn were appointed to procure a Supply of Powder and Arms with all possible Dispatch and Secrecy. Mr

Biddle was applied to for the purpose and dispatched with a pilot boat to Hispaniola which he procured a Cargo of powder with which he returned in a very short time. Soon after he was appointed to the Command of the *Franklin* Galley then just built." Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

COMMISSION OF NICHOLAS BIDDLE AS CAPTAIN IN THE PENNSYLVANIA NAVY <sup>1</sup>

To Nicholas Biddle, Eesquire.

In Committee of Safety

We reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity. Do by these Present constitute and appoint you to be Captain of the Provincial Armed Boat, called the *Franklin* fitted out for the protection of the Province of Pennsylvania, and the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all hostile Enterprizes, and for the defence of American Liberty: you are therefore to take the said Boat into your charge, and carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Captain by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Soldiers and Mariners under your command to be obedient to your orders, as Captain. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from the Assembly or Provincial Convention, during their Sessions, or from this or a future Committee of Safety for this Province, or from your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant to the trust reposed in you; this commission to continue in force until revoked by the Assembly or Provincial Convention, or by this or any succeeding Committee of Safety.

By order of the Committee.

B. Franklin, Presid't

Philadelphia, August 1st 1775.

Wm. Govett, Sec'ty

1. James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle, Vice-President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 393. While three captains had been commissioned prior to Biddle, his is the earliest one that has been located. Although dated August 1, it was not issued until after August 26, 1775, when the form was adopted and one hundred copies ordered printed. Hereafter cited as Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED AUGUST 1, 1775" <sup>1</sup>

I am amazed at the stupor and supineness of your Admiralty. For God's sake what are you doing in England? Are the friends of Great Britain and their property to be left exposed at this rate, to the dictates of an inhuman rabble? . . . Where is the boasted Navy of our country, that only one poor sloop is stationed here? Whereas, if we had but three ships of war, one of fifty and two of forty guns each, this place would not only be kept in awe, and the friends of Government secured, but a sufficient quantity of provisions might be had at all times for your fleet and army, which, we are informed, are half starved at Boston. As to the sloop we have here, the *Nautilus*, I fear she will soon go to the shades; for our good friends are building above fifty row-boats of large dimensions, which are to have a twenty-four pounder in the stern sheets, several swivels in the sides, and plenty of musquets for the people on board, and all for the purpose of attacking the King's ships that may arrive here. But if Government would order the Navy to



sink all these vessels to the bottom wherever they met with them, a few examples of such timely severity would keep them on shore. I must not forget to tell you, that they are smuggling from the French West-Indies in pilot boats, all the ammunition they can get; but two or three cruisers off the Capes would soon put an end to that business . . . We had a schooner a few days since who brought a considerable quantity of gunpowder stowed under molasses, and when she arrived, she hoisted in bravo a French jack, ensign and pendant. If government mean to do anything, they must do it quickly, or the contest will be the stronger. I am surprised you do not take and stop all the ships going in or coming out of these ports. Conceal my name; or I should run a great risque of my life and property, were it discovered here that I had sent you any account of these proceedings: Indeed, I incur some danger in writing at all; nor should I, if I could not confide in my conveyance.

1. *London Chronicle*, September 26 to September 28, 1775.

### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

*Resolved*, That the sum of sixteen thousand dollars be paid to the delegates of the colony of Pennsylvania, in full for the like sum by them borrowed by order of the Congress, on June 3d last, for the use of the Continent.

Whereas, at a former Congress, it was resolved, that, if certain acts of parliament, in the continental Association enumerated and complained of, should not be repealed on or before the 10th day of September, 1775, the inhabitants of these United Colonies would not, directly or indirectly, export any merchandize or commodity whatsoever, to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies; and as some doubt has arisen with respect to the true spirit and construction of said resolve; to the end, that such doubts may be removed,

*Resolved*, That under the prohibition, in the said association contained, to export to, or import from, the Islands of Great Britain and Ireland, this Congress intends to comprize all exportation to, and importation from, the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, and Mann, and every European island and settlement within the British dominions; and that under the denomination of West Indies, this Congress means to comprehend all the West Indian islands, British and foreign, to whatever state, power, or prince belonging, or by whomsoever governed, and also the Summer islands, Bahama Islands, Berbicia and Surinam on the Main, and every island and settlement within the latitude of the southern line of Georgia and the Equator.

Adjourned to Tuesday, the 5 of Sepr next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 237-239. The preamble to, and the last resolution were printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, August 21, 1775.

### RICHARD HENRY LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 1st August 1775

We understand here that Batteries, may be constructed at the entrance of the Bay of Boston so as to prevent the egress & regress of any Ships whatever. If this

be fact, would it not Sir be a signal stroke to secure the Fleet & Army in and before Boston so as to compel a surrender at discretion. While I write this, I assure you my heart is elated with the contemplation of so great an event. A decisive thing, that would at once end the War, and vindicate the injured liberties of America. But your judgement, and that of your brave Associates, will best determine the practicability of this business.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Baltimore] Augt 1st 1775

I wrote you a Very long letter of the 29th June by Capt [James] Camble [Campbell] Via Cork, which is some time out of the Capes, and I assure you I am Glad, as I was fearfull of its falling into the hands of the men of War. I also wrote you the 11th July, by Capt [Peter] Templeton Via Cork. to boath I refer you – since then none of your favours. – its Unnecessary for me to Say more About the Schooner <sup>2</sup> than I have done. the Directions I sent you by her when she first went to Dublin must be a better Guide than all I could say at present beside if any of our friends want to try a little that way, you Can from them Directions & your own knowledge give them proper Advice, – I have hinted to Willcocks & Co & T[homas]McCabe,<sup>3</sup> that such Matters might be done & referd them to you, they are the only too I have wrote to. . . .

I would advise you not to Come out if you find a probabillity of any thing being done in the former Scheme of the Schooner with any friends. I think you might give your friends Incouragemt & you may be Assured Money may be made. you have Inclosed a list of Goods Much Wanted, and likely to be so,<sup>4</sup> as no man will be such a fool, as to bring in Goods from England or Ireland.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The schooner *Industry*.

3. See letters of June 29 and July 31, 1775.

4. See enclosure following.

LIST OF SALEABLE ARTICLES <sup>1</sup>

[Enclosed in letter from George Woolsey to George Salmon August 1, 1775]

Gunpowder Differt Quallities	a 85/	£400. 0. 0
Good Musketts fitted with Bayonetts		200
Russia Sheeting		400
Russia Duck & Canvass		200
Osnabrigs		600
an assortment of Common Needells & Brass	}	100
pins 3½lb 4lb 4½lb in Packets		
Checks & Striped Hollands		300
Writing paper assorted		60
Pepper		40
Low priced linnens		400

## Corse Woolens Viz

Blue Green & White half thicks	£150	
White & Coulerd Kerseys	150	
Negro Cotton	100	
Fearnaut Duffellds & Coatings	100	500
Bar lead & Shot. Most lead		100
4d 8d 10d 12d & 20d Nails		600
Sene & Sewing twine thread & Sewing Silk		100 4000

you must proportion these Goods According to the Quantity and they must not be Brittish or Irish Manufacture nor Shipped from them places, if the Scheme is Carried into Execution.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION, TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Annapolis, 1st August 1775.

The Resolution of your Convention, That no Flour, Wheat, or other Grain or Provisions of any Kind should be exported from your Colony to any part of the World after the fifth Day of August came to Hand by your Express Yesterday afternoon. The Delegates from this Province have communicated to this Convention, That the Utility and propriety of stopping Exports had been fully considered by the Congress, and that they had not thought proper to stop the Exports before the 10th Day of September. We have received Information that the Congress intended to adjourn the Beginning of this Week, so that this Subject cannot again be brought before them. This Convention on mature Consideration do not see that the Advantages to the common Cause by an immediate Stoppage of the Export of Provisions could equal the Inconveniencies and Distresses of Individuals which would certainly be occasioned thereby nor that any Distress could be brought on the common Enemy by our coming into your Resolution without the Accession of the Colonies of Pennsylvania and New York, which cannot be brought about sooner than the 10th of September, as the Convention of New York will probably rise about the same Time as the Congress, and the Assembly of Pennsylvania hath already adjourned. For these Reasons, We have unanimously resolved not to prohibit Exports before that Day. We are [&c.] By Order of the Convention.

1. Md. Arch., Red Book, vol. II.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

On motion, Resolved, That any person or persons who shall hereafter import into this Province any Arms or Ammunition, shall be at liberty to sell the same to the Inhabitants for any price they can agree for.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 8.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Tybee Sound]

Aug. 1 Got under way, and turned through Skull Creek, and came to, at Callaboge.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

**2 Aug.**

COLONEL JAMES CARGILL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

To the Honourable the Great and General Court, assembled at Watertown:  
The Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia, in the County of Lincoln, in Council met at Booth-Bay, August 2, 1775, humbly sheweth:  
That in the night between the 20th and 21st of July ultimo, the Colonel of said Regiment received information by express that a Frigate, with four Transport Ships and three Sloops, were arrived at Long Island, in Penobscot Bay, and taking on board fuel and provisions for General [Thomas] Gage's Army. That the Colonel immediately dispatched orders to the proper officers to meet him at St. George's, with a third part of each Company under his command; in consequence of which the several Companies of each Regiment marched the next day. That on their arrival off said place of rendezvous it was found that certain persons, not under their command, had gone to Camden, the place of continent nearest to said island. That fearing the effects of this incident, the body marched after them with all possible expedition, but as soon as they reached Camden they had certain intelligence that, by means of said persons, the enemy had already received notice of the approach and design of the Militia, and in consequence thereof had moved from the land out of the reach of their arms. That a council was immediately called, in which it was judged impracticable to execute the plan hitherto adopted against the foe thus alarmed, nor was any other way of defeating their intentions now in the power of the Militia, but that of cutting off their communications with the Main, preventing any ill-disposed persons from sending them supplies, and themselves from making any secure lodgment on shore – that as Fort Pownall stood contiguous to good navigation for Ships of any burden, it was untenable by any force we could throw into it – as it was just at hand to the present station of the enemy; unapproachable by us if once they shall get possession; so situated as to command the settlements on the River and Bay; and, with the assistance of a few men and one or two small armed vessels, capable of distressing the inhabitants of the greatest part of the eastern country, so as to oblige them to abandon their abodes or act the Tory to the uttermost; it was therefore judged to be the most alluring bait, and, at the same time the easiest prey the foe could find in these parts – and as a letter from Mr. [Edward] Winslow, who conducts their said fleet, to the Committee of St. George's, together with a pretended certificate from some Selectmen in Boston, intimates a design of returning for more cargoes, it seemed highly probable that their factors would tarry at said

fort, under the protection of the marines now on board said frigate, to prepare matters for this or any other fleet, on like errand, against their return. It was therefore unanimously judged necessary for the publick safety that said Fort Pownall be immediately destroyed. That the Militia marched for said place without delay, and on their way were overtaken by two officers of Colonel McCobb's Regiment, informing that part of said Regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Harnden, was on the march to join them; but as there was no prospect of an opportunity of coming to action with the enemy, this Regiment being so far ahead of them, and being now two hundred and seventy strong, was thought sufficient to accomplish every purpose now attainable; and inasmuch as they came without boats, and your petitioners had not boats enough for the body now with them, their continuing their march was judged needless and inconvenient, and thereupon they returned. That your petitioners, proceeding on their march to Fort Pownall, took two sloops which they found in the employ of carrying necessaries to Boston, with a protection from Admiral [Samuel] Graves. Intelligence was received of several others in the same circumstance at Majabigwaduce, whereupon a party was dispatched thither, which took a sloop loading for Nantucket, together with another sloop and schooner just come from Boston, and bound thither again, with protection from the Admiral. The rest of said Regiment meanwhile went forward, and after assisting Colonel [Thomas] Goldthwait in removing his effects out of said Fort to the Chapel, and saving what shot, lead and old iron they could, burnt the building to the ground, and then brought off a barge belonging to the Colony, which had been employed in the service of the Fort. That your petitioners then reconnoitred the bay, and found the enemy's fleet to remove from place to place sundry times, and to take such posts as made it evident their design was rather to avoid than intercept them. That finding their provisions all spent, and themselves in a country where the necessities of the inhabitants forbod the hope of any supply from them, your petitioners were obliged to return home; accordingly the vessels above mentioned were brought to sail, and arrived safe in Townsend Harbour, in this Town, on Tuesday the first of this instant. That on their return, your petitioners find that they would have been supplied with provisions from the Town of Bristol, had not one of the aforesaid persons, by whose means the enemy was alarmed from Camden, prevented their sending them, after part was put on board of these vessels to convey them to your petitioners. That soon after their arrival, your petitioners met in council to deliberate on what might be proper to be done with the vessels now in custody, and the persons who commanded them; and a regard for the publick safety induced your petitioners to order them to be hauled up, stripped and kept under a constant guard till the pleasure of the honourable Court is known – except the schooner, which for particular reasons, your petitioners have delivered to Major Andrew Reed, of this Town, to be employed in defence of this coast, and in suppressing trade with the enemy, until the orders of the Legislature concerning her shall be received. The masters of said vessels appeared to your petitioners to have offended rather out of ignorance than ill intent, and therefore were dismissed – Nathan Philips, Peleg Cruger and Jonathan Carleton, then sick on shore and incapable of being removed, except who were by plenary evidence found guilty of having made it their business for some

time past to supply the King's Troops with wood, live stock and whatever other provisions they could procure; and therefore your petitioners judged it not for the safety of the Colony, and especially the eastern country, to suffer said persons to go at large. Your petitioners have for that reason referred them to the sentence of the honourable Court, and for that purpose do now send the two former to your Honours by the escort of Major Edward Emerson, an officer of said Regiment, who has been with your petitioners through the whole of the expedition here narrated, and to whom your petitioners can safely refer the honourable Court for a particular account of every circumstance attending it. Your petitioners pray that the honourable Court would take order respecting the premises, and on the first signification of your Honour's pleasure, the said sloops, schooner, boats, &c. shall forthwith be disposed of agreeably thereunto. And your petitioners in duty bound shall ever pray.

Signed in behalf and per order of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln

James Cargill, Colonel

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194.

#### NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

[Boston] August 2 [1775]

The *Merlin* now coming in from a Cruize the Admiral ordered her to take the *Scorpion's* birth, and the latter to come up to Boston to fit for Sea.

The Night before the *Symmetry* armed Transport in Charles River had perceived a great number of Whale Boats, rowing very softly towards Boston, whereupon she made the Private Signal, and the Rebels finding they were discovered, retired. — These nocturnal movements of the Whale Boats about the Harbour, and the knowledge of there being some hundreds of them, capable of carrying from 10 to 16 men each, with Ease, began to cause some apprehensions even in the large men of war, particularly in those stationed some distance from the Town; and the Captains of the *Somerset* and *Boyne* on account of the reduced state of their Complements (having in both Ships nearly 350 Men absent) thought it therefore proper at this time to make . . . Representations to the Admiral.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 165, 166, MassHS Transcript.

#### JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      Moored off the Lighthouse Point Alderton SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E  
Wednesday 2                      Lighthouse NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E.

A M sent the Boat on shore to Watch the motion of the Rebels, at 11 unmoor'd & hove Short on the Small br Punished Geo. Payler Marine for Neglect of Duty Do W[eather] at 2 P M Weighed & came to Sail  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 came too with the Bt Bower in Boston Harbour Moor'd with the Stream Anchor, at 6 made the Signl for a Pilot  $\frac{1}{2}$  past the Pilot came onbd at 7 Weigh'd & came to Sail Stood up the Harbour, at 9 Came to with the Bt Bower

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775 Cape Ann Harbour N N W 3 or 4 Leagues  
 Wednesday 2 at 6 A M fired a gun and Bro't too a Schooner with wood <sup>2</sup> took  
 her in tow . . . at 6 P M Sent the Master with two Schooners to  
 Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. The schooner *Deborah*, William Battershill, master, from Kennebec to Chatham, with wood, shingles and spruce. She was condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

*Massachusetts Spy*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1775

Worcester, August 2.

Several men of war and two or three transports, sailed last week from Boston, where they were bound was not certainly known, but it is conjectured they are gone in search of fresh provisions.

Last Sunday [July 30] an express arrived from Suffolk County, on Long-Island with information that a number of transports, with a considerable body of troops from Boston, under convoy of five ships of war, had appeared off Montock Point; that an officer landed, and requested to purchase a number of cattle and sheep, which was refused.

By a return express who left the Camp at Cambridge, last Friday evening [July 28], we are informed that 6 sail of transports sailed from Boston, under convoy of a man of war, some time ago, for the Eastward of Casco-Bay, for forage; that they landed a number of men for that purpose: — That while the men from the ships were landed, a number of men from the shore possessed themselves of 5 of the ships, made the seamen and soldiers prisoners, and secured the ships out of reach of the man of war.

"CONFERENCE UPON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOSTON PORT BILL" <sup>1</sup>

Boston August the 2d 1775 —

At a Meeting held at the Generals the following Matters were proposed for consideration—

## Present

His Excellency General [Thomas] Gage	[Jonathan Sewall] Attorney General
Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves	Mr. Secretary [Thomas] Flucker
Major General [Henry] Clinton	Mr. [Henry] Hulton
Major General [John] Burgoyne	Mr. [William] Burch
Earl [Hugh] Percy	Mr. [Charles] Paxton
Chief Justice [Peter] Oliver	Mr. [Benjamin] Hallowell

At the last consultation held at General Gage's by the desire of Vice Admiral Graves, in the Month of May, upon the Subject of the Boston Port Act, it appeared to be the Opinion of the Gentlemen then met that Vessels might be admitted into this Harbor under certain circumstances, and be stationed at certain Places under the Admirals immediate Directions, but not upon any account to be permitted to unload any part of their Cargoes —

Since that time several Vessels have arrived in the Harbor of Boston from foreign parts with Cargoes of Goods some of which are said to have been discharged without a Report being made to the proper officer, or the Duties which were chargeable in any part of the Goods having been paid –

On Account of the Rebellion the Masters of Vessels cannot go to Plymouth, where the Officers of the Port of Boston have been stationed since the Port Act took place, nor are the proper Officers allowed by the Rebels to receive the Duties there

The Army and remaining Inhabitants in the Town of Boston are in great want of Fuel and Provisions.

The Officers of the Customs stationed at Marblehead for the purpose of carrying into execution the Boston Port Bill have been obliged to remove from thence, & that Vessels laden with Fuel & Provisions for the sustenance of the Inhabitants of Boston can no longer comply with the Regulations of that Act.

The Commissioners of the Customs being desirous of taking the best Measures for securing His Majesty's Duties and preventing the breach of the Acts of Trade and Revenue, beg the Opinion of the Gentlemen –

1st Whether it be adviseable that any of the Vessels coming into the Harbor of Boston may be allowed to dispose of any part of their Cargoes for the supply of His Majesty's Army or Navy with Necessaries, or for the sustenance of the Inhabitants of Boston?

Answered unanimously in the affirmative –

2d Whether the Gentlemen would advise the Commissioners of the Customs to remove the Officers of the Customs of the Port of Boston, now at Plymouth, to Boston? –

Answered unanimously in the affirmative.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

#### MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Wednesday, 2nd August 1775.

At a Meeting of the Governor and Committee or Council of Safety this day

The committee appointed at the last meeting about the armed vessels &c. having performed the journey and business to which they were directed and instructed made a full verbal report of their journey, viewing, conversation and doings concerning armed vessels &c., what they have viewed, the terms on which they made be had, the opinion of gentlemen in various towns, who are concerned in navigation, about the measure of fitting out any &c.; from which it appears sundry vessels may be had on reasonable terms, but none can be found perfectly accomodated for war vessels &c.; that the people are differently minded about the measure, many thinking that as it is impossible for us to compare by sea with the British ships &c., it will but provoke insult and expose our sea coasts and vessels inward bound to greater dangers, &c., – others, that it will be of advantage and a protection &c.

The subject largely discoursed, and it being a measure resolved by the General Assembly &c., doubt whether they have right to suspend it, even tho' they should think it best &c. And on the question do agree and conclude to take

up and improve for the purpose a certain brig belonging to Cap. Wm Griswold of Wethersfield, of about 108 tons, and that she be fixed as and for an armed vessel according to the resolve of the Assembly.

And also, to charter and improve some one vessel of small burden and a fast sailer, or about 20, 25 or 30 tons, and to fix her with such warlike furniture as may be proper; to be improved chiefly as a spy vessel, to run and course from place to place to discover the enemy and carry intelligence, &c.

And do appoint Cap. Saml [Robert] Niles of Norwich to be Captain of said small vessel.

And the Council do appoint Benja Huntington, Esqr and Capn Jno Deshon a committee to find and to fit out and furnish such small vessel with all necessaries for that purpose. And adjourn till tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 109, 110.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*<sup>1</sup>

[Lake Champlain]

August the 2nd [1775] Went on Shore with the Boat with the Lieutenant of the Marines to make Discoveries,

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Ticonderoga 2 August 1775

Capt. [James] Smith, who has been sent up by the New York Congress, in lieu of the former Captain who left the sloop, arrived here a few days ago, and has made me a report of what alterations will be necessary to put her into a proper state of defense: But as I have no Carpenters to spare, unless I quit building boats, I have declined it for the present. On which he delivered me a paper, of which the enclosed is a Copy.

If Congress should think is necessary to build Vessels of equal or superior force to those building at St John's, a number of *good* ship carpenters should be immediately sent up, altho this year they would be of no service, but that of transporting troops even if we had them here on account of the want of powder –

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN CHATFORTH BEFORE MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Charlotte County to wit

John Chatforth late of Yorkshire in old England duly sworn deposeth & saith that he went from Squire Gilleland's Patent to St Johns about the first of May last, where he has been since employed in farming – that his Father and Mother live there – that he procured a Pass from Major [Charles] Preston to come from St Johns to Mr Gillelands to Harvest, and accordingly left that

Place the 21<sup>t</sup> July – that at that Time there were about four Hundred and sixty regular Troops there – But no Canadians except, two Indian Interpreters, and about Half a Dozen hauling Picketts for the Fortification – that there are between thirty & forty Indians there, some of them of the Coynewagas, and some of the Mepassagas who go out for Spies – that this Deponent believes their Orders are not to pass the Line, but cannot tell whether they would act agt the Colonies if required – did not hear that Genl. [Guy] Carlton was inlisting any Canadians – was informed by Mr [John] Duguid that there were some Indians at Montreal, but does not know certainly as he never was there – that he this Deponent had heard the Canadians say they wish to remain neutral – that the Fortification at St Johns is a Fort with a double Row of Picketts and the largest Picketts of it are as big as a Man's Thigh – that there are Trenches on the Out Side, and a Breast Work on the Inside of the Picketts – that they intend to let Water from the Lake into the Trenches – that he was not allowed to go into the Fort, but supposes it to contain about an Acre of Ground, believes they have about eight or ten Guns mounted, Mortars included and are preparing to mount more, as they have more Embrazures for them – that the Fort is square and without Bastions – that there is another Fortification to the Northward of the one described, and like it on which no Cannon are mounted – that the Timber ready framed was hauling by the Canadians from Chamblee when he left St Johns for building two Shooners, one of which is to be of fifty four Feet Keel, & the other of fifty five – that the Timber belonged to Mr Bell and was seized by the Regulars at Chamblee – that Provisions in Canada were very scarce, and that Flour was the most so – that this Deponent saw no Boats at St Johns except two small Batteaus, and did not hear of their having any more elsewhere – that more regular Troops were expected in Canada, which News they heard from Quebec – that he cannot tell what other Troops are in Canada, but that there are some at Chamblee, tho he cannot tell their Number – he knows John Duguid who was a Cooper at St Johns employed by the Commissary – that the Schooners were coming up the Lake as soon as they were finished – that he this Deponent lived better than Half a Mile from the Fort – that he has not lately seen any Provisions come to St Johns & all that are brought must pass by his Door – that he saw the two Men who were taken with the Indian Boy and believes they were sent to Montreal – that he does not suppose the Canadians would take it ill if the Colony Troops were to pass the Line – that he heard & believes there were about three Thousand People assembled at Chamblee to defend themselves agt being forced to take up Arms, who did not continue together above two or three Days, but he cannot tell in what Manner they were dispersed – that the Canadians have Arms but no Ammunition – that the regular Troops declared that when they came up the Lake they would destroy Squire Gilleland's Settlement, and further saith not –

his  
John X Chatforth  
Mark

Sworn this 2d Day of August 1775 before me Ph. Schuyler – Judge.

[Endorsed] The Above Deposition was taken from the Mouth of the Deponent in the Presence of Genl Schuyler, Col. [Benjamin] Hinman, Col. [Samuel] Motte, & Major [Joseph] Welch, by

John Macpherson.

[Endorsed] Read in Congress Sepr 13th 1775.

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

CERTIFICATE OF CAPTAIN JAMES SMITH <sup>1</sup>

I Hereby Certify to whom it may Concern that on the First day of August 1775 by order of Major General [Philip] Schuyler, I took Command of the Sloop *Enterprise* then Lying at Crown point for the Service of the United Colonies and find by Strict examination the Condition she now is in to be of Very Little use to the Service, as I am well assured in the Present State the Vessel might be Easily taken by Four Batteaus with one Swivel Gun and Ten men Armed in Each As Witness my hand this Second Day of August 1775

James Smith Commodore

To His honor Major General Schuyler at Tionderoga-----

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN DUGUID AT TICONDEROGA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Charlotte County ss

John Duguid being duly sworn saith That he is a North Briton & has lived in Canada for about sixteen Months past, That by Order of the Commissary General there, he came to St Johns about a Month and an half ago, as a Cooper that he stayed there about four or five Weeks, when they wanted him to continue in their Service, but he thought it his Duty to come here and give Information & that he left St Johns about twelve Days ago . . . that between thirty & forty Guns of twelve, Eighteen and twenty four Pounds with Carriages were landed at Chamblee, but not brought to St Johns when he came away – That he does not believe they Would be brought to St John's till the Timber of the Vessels was brought up, which was framed at Chamblee & they were employed in bringing it to St Johns two Days before the Deponent came away. – That they had about thirty or forty Carriages employed in the Work & expected a great Many more the next Day, & thought to get the Timber there in four or five Days . . . That the keel of one of the Vessels was between fifty three & fifty four feet long, & that of the other between fifty five and fifty six & that they are to be built between the Fortifications. – That there were between fifty and sixty Carpenters and this Deponent supposes, the Vessels are well advanced by this Time and they are to mount sixteen or eighteen Guns each, the most of them twelve Pounds. . . .

Sworn second Day of August 1775. Before me Ph: Schuyler Judge.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A.M., August 2, 1775

A Letter from John Dennis, Chairman of the Committee of New Brunswick, in answer to the Letter of the Committee of Safety of the 21st ult., was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[John Dennis's letter of July 27, 1775.]

Mr. [Isaac] Low moved that this Congress make a Resolution in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, August 2, 1775

Whereas it appeared to the Committee of Safety, appointed by this Congress during their late recess, that a Boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, was without any provocation attacked, and most wantonly destroyed: And whereas, the Corporation of this City had, under the sanction of the said Committee, ordered another Barge to be built, in order to replace the Barge so destroyed as aforesaid: And whereas, this Congress had approved of that and the other conduct of their said Committee, and voted them their thanks for their faithful services: And whereas, notwithstanding, some disorderly and evil disposed persons did, in the night, destroy and render useless the said Barge, so ordered to be built as aforesaid, by sawing it in pieces: And whereas, the Corporation have since formally applied to this Congress for their direction in the premises:

*Resolved*, That the perpetrators of the said act are guilty of a high offense and insult against this Congress and the Colony they represent, as endeavouring to contravene the true intent and meaning of their appointment. That they are base violators of the Association subscribed by this Congress, and by them recommended to the adoption of their constituents.

In order, therefore, that the sense of this Congress may be fully known relative to such outrageous acts,

*Resolved*, That this Resolution be immediately made public, not doubting but that the good inhabitants of this Colony will dully assist and support this Congress in detecting, convicting, and bringing to condign punishment all such factious offenders, as disturbers of the public peace and enemies of their County.

Mr. Low's motion was seconded by Mr. Walton. After some time spent in consideration thereof,

*Ordered*, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till Friday morning next.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 97, 98.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

(No 30) The *Otter* Sloop of War in Elizabeth River by Norfolk 2d  
(Duplicate) August 1775

My Lord Since my last of the 12th of July the delegates of this Colony held a Convention in Richmond at the falls of the James River on the 17th of last

Month, where they resolved to raise 3000 Infantry and three troops of Horse for the defence of the lower parts of this Colony and I am likewise informed that one hundred men are to be raised in each of the upper counties who are to hold themselves in readiness to March when called upon, and they propose emitting three hundred thousand Pounds in paper Currency for the payment of these troops, and those that were out under my Command last year against the Indians, they have laid their hands on all the publick Monies in the Receiver and Auditor Generals Offices, also on that in the Post Masters and Naval Officers, to a considerable amount; they have also prohibited the exportation of all sorts of Provisions from the 5th of this Month, which has given great disgust to many of their own party who had purchased great quantities of Grain which they meant to have exported before the 10th of September the time appointed by the General Congress the Merchants of Norfolk have petitioned the Convention for further time, but with what Success is not known.

Tho' the proceedings of the General Congress do not transpire, I have every reason to believe that they have ordered an Army to be immediately raised (Stiled the Continental Army) they have also appointed a Treasury and are to emit a very large Sum of paper Money, which is to have Currency all over the Continent; the Congress is to be the Legislative body, the executive power is in the Council of Safety a General Committee is to act as Law Courts, in short they have now established a New Government at Philadelphia, and indeed our Provincial Convention openly disavow all Allegiance to His Majesty or his Parliament.

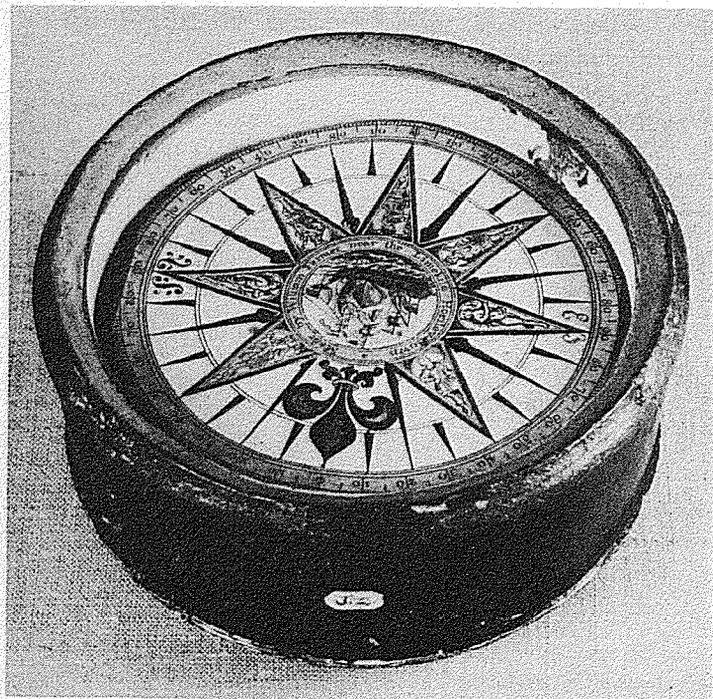
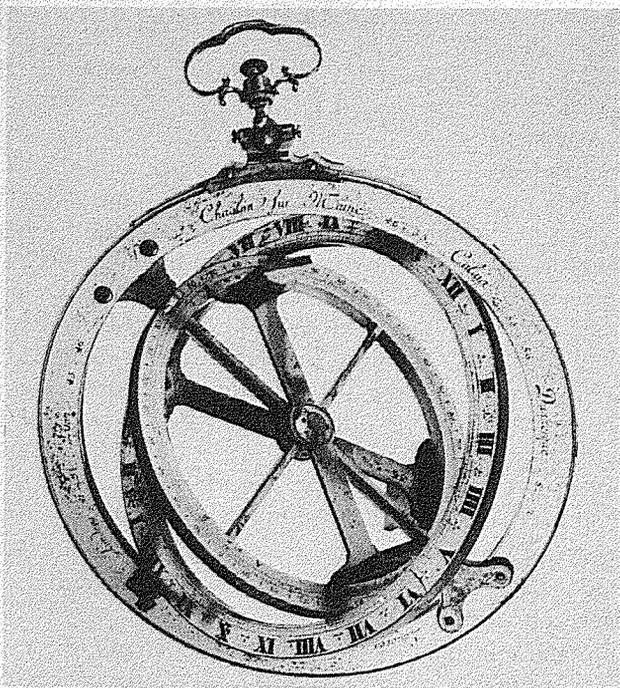
His Majesty's Ship the *Mercury* being arrived and the *Fowey* ordered to proceed to Boston and the *Mercury* not having accomodation for me on board I have been obliged to Press a Ship for my own place of Residence, and she is now fitting up for my reception under the Guns of the two Men of War. The troops I sent for to St Augustine arrived last Night about Seventy in Number including Officers, (which has been the cause of many expresses from this to the Convention;) this is a very small reinforcement considering the Situation of this distracted Country, but I am still perswaded was I speedily supplied with a few hundred more, with Arms Ammunition and the other requisites of War, and with full powers to act that I could in a few months reduce this Colony to perfect Submission; I received by the Vessell which brought the troops the inclosed dispatches\* from Mr. [Patrick] Tonyn which I am happy to have so early an opportunity of transmitting to the Lordship as he informs me they are *of the very utmost importance*.

I transmit to your Lordship the Minutes of Council from the 20th of April 1774 to the 17th of June following, also the Account of His Majesty's revenue of 2/ per hogshead with the Naval returns to the 25th of April, which probably will be the last for some time. I am &c.

Dunmore

\*supposed to be with the origl of this Letter <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 459-461, LC Transcript.
2. The original of Dunmore's letter, with the enclosures, was lost when the vessel carrying them to England went down in a storm off the Scilly Islands.



(Top) *Universal Equinoctial Ring Dial, 1774.* (Bottom) *Mariner's Compass, c. 1750.*

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1775

Norfolk, August 2.

This town and neighbourhood have been much disturbed lately with the elopement of their negroes, owing to a mistaken notion which has unhappily spread amongst them, of finding shelter on board the men of war in this harbor, notwithstanding the assurances given by the commanding officers, that not the least encouragement should be shewn them.

On Friday last, [July 28] a deputation from the Common-hall of this borough, waited upon the Captains [John] M'Cartney and [Matthew] Squires of the men of war now lying here, with the thanks of the Corporation for their conduct, in discountenancing the runaway slaves that have made application for service on board.

On Monday last [July 31] arrived here from St. Augustine, about sixty soldiers, on board the sloop tender sometime since belonging to Mr. Bowdoin, of the Eastern shore. These with about forty more, which are hourly expected, are to compose a body-guard for his Excellency the Governor, at his intended place of residence, on board the ship *William*.

The troops above-mentioned are under the command of a Captain and two Lieutenants: the Ensign, it is said, is on his way over land. The Committee of this borough, early on yesterday morning, despatched an express to the Honorable the Convention of the colony, now sitting at Richmond, informing them of the arrival of the troops above-mentioned.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Beaufort 2d August 1775.

In consequence of your directions, I sent Express to Savannah & the Letter for the Council of Safety was delivered, and the Inclosed sent me to be forwarded, I Received it yesterday morning, and as I doubt whether its Contents are of such a Consequence as to need an Express, I declined sending one in hopes an opportunity woud offer soon, which does this day; I have to Inform you Capt. [Clement] Lampriere set Sail from here on Monday forenoon [July 31], and in all probability got over the Barr this afternoon, Capt [John] Joyner with a few Volunteers from here, went with him <sup>2</sup> – Inclosed is an accot due me which you will please to order payment to my partner Mr Josiah Smith, there is another accot due me for Sundrys Supplied Capt Joyner & Capt. [John] Barnwell on the first Expedition,<sup>3</sup> but the accot is given in to Capt Joyner who will Render it amongst the others – I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

D: DeSaussure

1. Laurens Collection, No. 29, Letters of the Council of Safety, SCHS.

2. In the sloop *Commerce*.

3. To Georgia to share in the powder seized upon the ship *Phillipa*, Capt. Richard Maitland.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 2. Sailed out of Tybee, with the wind at South; turned to windward: at meridian observed in latitude 31 deg. 45 min.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

No 19

Bermuda August the 2d 1775

My Lords Your Lordship, and the Lords of Trade and plantations, will receive by the Brig *Porgy*, Allen Kirkpatrick Master, Eight Acts of Assembly, for His Majestys Royal Approbation or Dissallowance. the Remarks on those Acts, have been Dispatched to your Lordship, which I hope you will have Received.

The best Conveyance at present will be, via Barbados or Antigua as my last letters Received by way of South Carolina, had been opened by the Committee of Inspection at South Carolina, and it is Said that all letters Addressed to Governors are opened there.

I hope your Lordship will have received my letter No 8.<sup>2</sup> And I likewise Hope that such of these eight Acts of Assembly, as may meet with His Majestys Royal Approbation, may be Dispatched by the return of the Brig *Porgy* Allen Kirkpatrick master. I sent five Acts of Assembly months agoe via New York

I have the Honor to be My Lords [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

P S His Majestys Mandamus for Mr Hinson to be of the Council in Bermuda is come to Hand.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36, 808.

2. Probably meant Letter No. 18 of July 31, 1775.

3 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Halifax August 3d 1775

Sir, Your favour of the 26th July last I have received and am greatly obliged to your Excellency for the care you have taken to protect the Trade of this Province.

The Report of this Pirate cruising in the Bay of Fundy has retarded the Provision Vessels there for sometime, but I shall immediately give Notice at those Ports of the precautions you have taken for their Protection and safety, and I am persuaded that the Vessels you have sent to Cruise in the Bay, will discourage the people of the Eastern parts of New England, from attempting to carry into Execution, their premeditated design of making a Descent on this Province, which would have been of Fatal Consequence.

(Signed) Fran<sup>s</sup> Legge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*<sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Thursday the 3d Augt 1775

[P.M.] Spoke the Chace she proved to be the *Elisabeth* belonging to Newberry from haver de gras in Ballast She had no Provision on board Spaired her Bread Pork & Rum 5 of her Men enter'd on board<sup>2</sup> Mode & Clear Wear Lattd obsd 43°39' N

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. *Ibid.* The *Canceaux* had cleared Halifax the previous day and began the chase around noon, identifying her quarry as a brig. The five men were, of course, impressed from the *Elisabeth*.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1775

Cambridge, August 3.

Last Monday Morning [July 31] about 800 Men, went from Roxbury to the Spot where the Light House lately stood, where they found 40 of the Enemy, twenty-eight Soldiers, and 12 Tory Carpenters and Labourers, who were sent from Boston to erect a Building for fixing up Lights. Our People, before they surrendered, killed four of them (among whom it is said was a Lieutenant) and took the Rest Prisoners, being 24 Regulars, and the 12 Workmen with the Loss of one Man on our Side. The same Day the whole Number were brought to Head-Quarters in this Town, and the following day sent off to Worcester.

MAJOR BENJAMIN TUPPER TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES,  
CAMBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir I am now Able to give a more perticular account of the Expedition to the Light-house than when I saw you before, I find by examination that we killed Six persons on the spot one of which was A Leiut that we have 5 merines and one Torey in the Hospital that one Died of his wounds before he arrived to Roxbury that one women & a Lad is still at Dorchester, so that ading the 15, above mentioned to 38 which General [Artemus] Ward sent over to Cambridge makes 53 killd & taken. Majr [John] Crane with his field piece which was planted on Nantasket Beach to cover our retreat Sunk one of their Boats, and probably killd sundry of their crews as the Enemy approchd within 200 yards – on our side we lost one man only, had two just graizd with Balls, we stove one of our Boats & was obledgd to leave it, we lost seven small arms part of which were lost in Landing, as the rocks were very steep some of the party slipt in & let go their guns to save themselves and we have 25 small arms and Accutriments brought off with us and concive there were more taken but have been secreted by some of the party

The above is as just and Exact account as I am able to give who am your &c.

Aug the 3 AD 1775

Benj Tupper

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, August 3, 1775

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the situation of the Eastern parts of the Colony was again read, and accepted, and is as follows: viz.

Whereas it is necessary for the safety of this Colony, and the protection of the eastern parts of it in particular, that an additional force should be stationed in the County of Lincoln, to defend the Country from the inroads of our enemies and prevent their plundering the inhabitants of their Cattle, Sheep, Wood, &c., in order to supply the Fleet and Troops at Boston:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the honourable Board be, and hereby are desired to direct Captain James Curtis's Company, lately arrived at the Camp in Cambridge, from Brunswick, to repair immediately to Deer Island with six Whale Boats, and when arrived there, to be under the direction of some person who may be appointed by the honourable Board. And the Committee of Supplies are hereby directed to supply Captain Curtis with two months' allowance of Provisions for his said Company.

And it is hereby Resolved, That the Officers and Soldiers of said Curtis's Company shall receive forty Shillings advance pay, on their being mustered; and the honourable Board are desired to appoint some persons to muster them as soon as may be, and also, that some person or persons be appointed to muster the other two Companies as soon as raised.

And it is further Resolved, That there be two other Companies of fifty-nine Men each, including Officers, immediately raised for the purpose aforesaid; and that it be recommended to the honourable Board to appoint a Committee to deliver out enlisting orders to such persons as the Committee may see fit. And the honourable Board are hereby desired to appoint some suitable person to order and direct the said Companies, in the said County of Lincoln, as they shall think will most promote the interest and safety of the Colony.

And be it further Resolved, That the Committee who may be appointed by the honourable Board to give out inlisting Orders, be empowered and directed to procure, or cause to be procured, eight other Whale Boats, for the use of the said Forces; and if such Boats cannot be readily provided, the said Committee are hereby empowered to draw an order on the Hon. Jedediah Preble, Esq., and the Hon. Enoch Freeman, Esq., of Falmouth, for the Boats they have been building; who are hereby directed to deliver the same to such order accordingly, and charge them to the Colony, and immediately to cause as many more to be built at the expence of the Colony, for the use of the Forces stationed in the County of Cumberland.

And the honourable Board are likewise desired to give instructions to the Commanding Officer in said County of Lincoln to order that Fort Pownal, at Penobscot, be immediately demolished.

[Endorsed] In Council, August 3, 1775. Read and concurred.

Order'd That Mr Bryant, Capt Goodman and Coll Cutt with such as the Honble Board shall join be a Committee to examine Mr Edward Parry who has been brought from Georgetown to this Court in consequence of a Resolve of the late Provincial Congress of the 26 June last – & report what is best to be done with him Sent up for Concurrence

August 3d 1775

Jas: Warren Speaker

[Endorsed] In Council read & concurred, & Mr Lincoln and Mr Chauncey are joined.

1. Mass. Arch., House Journal and vol. 137, 39.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 3d August 1775.

Sir I am to acknowledge your Letter of the 1st Instant, and observe what you say regarding the Removal of the *Symmetry*; You are the best Judge whether she with your Lieutenant to Command her, or the *Scorpion* (which I am told has no cover) will be of most use in her Situation, untill you have a Twenty Gun Ship to put in her Station, but you will consider that the *Symmetry* is a hired Ship, in the Service of Government and the Owner should not have cause to Complain that she has received Damage in a Service She is not hired for, and for which reason the Officer must be Answerable for every thing belonging to her.

I can't pretend to interfere in your Department, or to give any Orders in a Service of which I have little knowledge, and you so well acquainted with

I am with Regard and Esteem. Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Block Isld N E B E 3 Ms

Thursday 3

Ar 5 A M Weighed Came to Sl At 7 fired 2 Guns to Bring too A Sloop Spoke her from New Haven wth Cattle sent An Officer & 4 Men on Bd her<sup>2</sup> Carried away the Sprit Sl Yd Fresh Breezes & fair Wr At 2 P M spoke H M S *Rose & Swann*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The sloop *Polly*, Samuel Perkins, master, for Barbadoes. She was condemned and sold in August in Boston, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Thursday 3d Augt 1775

After further consultation about the armed vessels &c., the following bill and resolve was prepared and pass'd, viz:

Whereas the General Assembly of this Colony at their session in July last, resolved that two armed vessels of suitable burden be immediately fitted out and

be armed with a proper number of cannon, swivel-guns and small arms, and furnished with necessary warlike stores and well officered and manned, for the defence of the sea coasts in this Colony, under the care and direction of his Honor the Governor and Committee of Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the General Assembly, who are thereby authorized and directed to procure, furnish and employ the same accordingly:

In pursuance of said resolve and direction, the Governor and Committee aforesaid having taken all proper steps and care to find how and in what manner the said resolve may be most properly carried into execution, are of opinion, that a certain brig, called the *Minerva*, belonging to Capt. [William] Griswold and now lying in Connecticut River at Rocky Hill, is one proper vessel to be employed for the service aforesaid, and do therefore agree and resolve, to take up and employ said brig in the service of this Colony as aforesaid, during such term as said Assembly or this Committee shall find needful to employ her in said service; and do hereby appoint Titus Hosmer and Ezekial Williams, Esqrs and Cap. Giles Hall, a committee to take up and retain said brig in the service aforesaid, to finish the contract for the hire and charter of said brig and execute proper writings, to cause the same to be justly apprized with all her furniture and tackle proper to be retained and used as an armed vessel and make a proper inventory thereof. And the said committee are further directed and impowered to furnish, procure and provide all necessary additional sails rigging and furniture and also all proper and necessary ship-stores and provisions, and furnish from the Colony stores, as far as may be, the necessary cannon, swivels, small arms, pistols, shot, powder, &c. &c., taking further needful directions from time to time from his Honor the Governor and said Committee.

And the Committee of the Pay-Table are hereby directed to draw on the Treasurer of this Colony in favor of said committee for such sums of money as they shall find necessary to enable them to accomplish the service aforesaid; and they to render their account of their disposition and disbursement thereof to the General Assembly, or to the Governor and said Committee.

At the same time &c. The Governor and Council having concluded to take up and employ the brig *Minerva*, belonging to Cap. Griswold, for an armed vessel &c. according to Act of Assembly &c, do appoint Cap. Giles Hall to be Captain and Commander of said brig and he to be allowed £7.0.0 P month.

Thos. Horsey, of Derby, to be 1st Lieut., his wages 5.0.0 P month.

James Hopkins	to be 2d Lieutenant, his	wages 4.0.0 P Do.
	to be Master	wages 4.0.0 p do.
	to be Mate	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Gunner	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Gunner's Mate	wages 2.8.0 p do.
	to be Boatswain	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Boatswain's Mate	wages 2.8.0 p do.
Timo. Larrabee	to be Steward	wages 3.0.0 p do.
Sylvanus Backus	to be cook	wages 3.0.0 p do.

to be one carpenter a 60/s. P month, and one pilot, and that said vessel be mann'd with forty seamen and forty soldiers or marines, exclusive of officers, to have and be allowed viz:

the sea men 2.5 p month

and the marines not exceeding 2.0 p month

And Cap. Hall is hereby instructed and directed forthwith to raise said 40 seamen and forty marines or soldiers by voluntary inlistments, and to incourage and ingage forty five shillings per month to the seamen, and not exceeding 40 s. per month to the soldiers or marines during their continuance in said service, and to have one month's pay advanced before they enter into and proceed on any cruise in said service. And said Cap. Giles Hall is hereby appointed Pay Master of said seamen and marines or vessel's crew, and is authorized to draw money out of the Colony treasury for that purpose, in manner as the land-officers are enabled to do, giving sufficient bond with surety as by law provided for pay-masters of the troops in the land service. And his Honor the Governor is hereby desired to give proper commissions and warrants to the necessary officers on board said vessel.

At the same time pass'd the following Instructions to Titus Hosmer, Ezl Williams, Esqrs and Cap. Giles Hall, a committee, &c.

Gent: The Governor and Committee of Safety (by a subcommittee) have agreed with Cap. Griswold, owner of the Brig *Minerva*, to charter said brig for the use of the Colony as an armed vessel, at the rate of 4s.L.M. per month per ton, with condition that if we should charter any other vessel at the same rate, for which we must furnish more sails or rigging than will be necessary for his, the interest of the expence of furnishing the other with sails &c. more than will be requisite for said brig is to be allowed to said Griswold in addition to said four shillings. That said brig be apprized by indifferent good judges, with all the requisite tackle and furniture at our receiving her, and an inventory thereof be taken, and that whatever betterments shall be made to or on said brig by the Colony shall be received by the owner on her return, if we chuse it, and an allowance be made to him for the full value of such betterments so far as the vessel is rendered more valuable or useful to him; and if any special damage is done to said brig beyond the necessary decay and wear by time, the same to be allowed the owner in addition to the charter-party.

The Colony to risque the vessel.

Said Committee to observe the above agreement. And said Committee are further instructed to employ said Cap. Griswold to do any service in and about the necessary additional rigging and furnishing said brig which [may] be properly done by him, at a reasonable price beyond what may be best done by Cap. Hall and his men.

Said committee are further instructed and desired to enquire and look out and recommend to us proper persons for the following offices, viz. master and mate, gunner and gunner's mate, boatswain and boatswain's mate and carpenter.

*Copy of the 3 foregoing given, &c.*

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*<sup>1</sup>

[Crown Point, Lake Champlain]

August the 3d [1775] – at 8 A.M. weighed the Anchor from the Southwest End & proceeded to the Northwest End to the Frenchman's House with the Lieut of the Marines & Sergt to make Discoveries & there meeting with Capt [Remember] Baker who went to Vandelowes the Frenchmans where his two Men were taken Prisoners on his last Cruise, they inform him there is two Schooners will be ready to sail from St Johns in ten Days from this Date mounting sixteen Carriage Guns each, besides Swivels; they are fifty two feet Keel by Good information from the French and Indians who came on board us & desire us to fortify at a Place where the channel is very narrow & runs close into the Shore where no Vessel can pass without passing through said Channel. By Receiving said Information I, with the advice of Capt Baker thought it proper to return with all speed to Your Honor to report, having a fine Gale of Wind I immediately weighed Anchor & proceeded towards Crown Point – & arrived there the 4th August at 4 oclock P.M. 1775. – on Board the Schooner Liberty

James Stewart, Comd Schooner

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,  
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

(Copy)

Ticonderoga August 3d 1775

Provision is now coming up with more speed than heretofore; and my fears of being detained on that account are subsided. I continue building Boats; but if the accounts contained in the enclosed affidavits be well founded, and of which we do not seem to entertain the least doubt,<sup>2</sup> the Enemy's naval strength will be such, as, in all probability, will prevent our getting down the Sorrel River to St Johns, as we suppose their vessels are nearly, if not quite, finished by this time – and although if we had a number of Carpenters and the necessary materials we might soon construct vessels equal to theirs, yet our want of ammunition would render them useless, for after compleating the Troops to a pound a man I shall not have a Ton of Powder left –

The Troops sicken alarmingly fast. Ninety two are now returned ill at this place only where we are about five hundred strong – I wish they had Tents, without which they must suffer incredibly if we should move on.

1. Trumbull Letter Book, ConnSL.

2. Depositions of John Duguid and John Shatford. Shatford's deposition only repeats what Duguid disclosed, and Duguid's is printed under August 2, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 3, 1775

*Resolved*, That the Committee for providing Powder, Arms, &c., be desired to procure from the French or Spanish West Indies, two thousand stand of good Fire Arms.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 298.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Richmond] Thursday, August 3, 1775

A letter from the committee of the borough of Norfolk, informing the Convention of the arrival of troops from St. Augustine, about sixty in number, under the command of one captain and two lieutenants; that they had learned, from good authority, another vessel, with more forces, might be hourly expected; that at present they were under no apprehensions from the troops, but found exceeding bad effects among the slaves from the neighbourhood of the men of war, which they had reason to believe would be very much increased by the arrival of these troops.

Also, a letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in Williamsburg, requesting that some certain line for their conduct might be laid down, lest in their zeal to serve their country, they might precipitate their countrymen into unnecessary calamities; informing the Convention that the governor's cutter had carried off a number of slaves belonging to private gentlemen, and that they thought it high time to establish the doctrine of reprisal . . .

Resolved, That the said letters be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the Colony.

1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of Virginia, held at Richmond Town in the County of Henrico* (Richmond, 1816), 9. Hereafter cited as *Va. Conv.*

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 3 Still plying to windward, with the wind at South; latitude observed 31 28.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

My dear frind

Cap Nicola Mole August the 3 1775 -

These will in form you that I arovd hear the first Instant from the Porte of Lugan [Leogane] wass 18 days abstant from My Vessel & have traveld to the different pourts to Vztt Pettet Govrner [Petit Goave] Lugan Poart Au Prince Jackermall [[Jacmel] Locores St Lucy & have only Purchast 5000 lb of powder which is pistol powder all that part of this Island is Securd by the Franckmen Which that carry to the [blurred]. I brought franck papers oup from Poart Au Prince, made the *Macaroni* a franck bottom, & She Saled the 2d Instant for the Winderd part of this Island in quest of powder and if it is not to be Obtaind shall come home with wat I have I woud a gon to france but thear is a stopedg of powder thear I can not dispose of our candels on Act of the quantey being hear your interest is in a bad Sitation at Lugan a Villen [illegible] Shall write you Varey partickler in 3 days rember me to my dear wife & children brother & your spous & famely your frind & faithfull Servt

W<sup>m</sup> Packwood

P S our powder from 3/6 to 3/9d that is purchast if aney to be had at windwd is much dearer horses in great Demand moleses at 30 livers

I could a had the kings Stoar opend at Gaudloope but sold at 130 Johannes pr thousand & ould Cannon powder, no Strunkt what I have got is the rearl thing I wish to my Sould you had it with you delay is dangerous you may look out for me in a month Varey Stroung

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG<sup>1</sup>,

Sir. *Pomona* English Harbour Antigua the 3d August 1775

Having Cruised with His Majesty's Sloop under my Command off St. Croix agreeable to your directions of the 10th June last, inclosing an anonymous Letter; setting forth there was a Combination between that Place and the British Colonies of America, and that he (the Writer) was informed they had Shipped from that Place to America, a quantity of Gun Powder and Ammunition; - I am to acquaint you it was wrote by George Cummerford, who proves to be a Lunatick and there is no foundation in his representation: The Governor of St Croix declares there neither has been, nor will he suffer any to be shipped from thence, am likewise to acquaint you there was a Schooner arrived at that place in order to procure Gun Powder for America, offering any Money for the purchase, but being acquainted the Governor had issued a Proclamation forbidding the exportation of the same, and learning we were Cruising off that place, she sailed again in three hours without shipping any one Article, but could not be informed where she was destined. I am Sir [&c.]

Hen<sup>y</sup> Bryne

1. PRO, Admiralty, 1/309.

4 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

Sir: Camp at Cambridge, August 4, 1775

I am Yesterday favored with yours of the 31st July; We have yet no certain Accounts of the Fleet which Sail'd out of Boston the 25th; but if our Conjectures and Information are just we may expect to hear of it every Hour. I am now, Sir, in strict Confidence to acquaint you, that our Necessities in the Articles of Powder and Lead are so great as to require an immediate Supply. I must earnestly intreat you will fall upon some Measures to forward every Pound of each in the Colony which can possibly be spared; It is not within the Propriety of Safety of such a Correspondence to say which I might on this Subject; It is sufficient that the Case calls loudly for the most strenuous Exertions of every friend of his Country and does not admit of the least delay. No Quantity, however Small, is beneath notice and should any arrive, I beg it may be forwarded as soon as Possible; But a Supply of this kind is so precarious, not only from the Danger of the Enemy, but the opportunity of Purchasing, that I have resolved in my mind every other possible chance, and listned to every proposition on the

subject which could give the smallest Hope; Among others I have had one mentioned which has some Weight with me, as well as the General Officers to whom I have proposed it one Harris is lately come from Bermuda, where there is a very considerable Magazine of Powder in a remote Part of the Island and the Inhabitants well disposed not only to our Cause in General, but to assist in this Enterprize in particular; we understand there are two Armed Vessels in your Province commanded by Men of known Activity and Spirit; one of which it is proposed to despatch on this Errand, with such other assistance as may be required; Harris is to go along as the Conductor of the Enterprize, and to avail ourselves of his knowledge of the Island, but without any Command. I am very sensible that at first view the project may appear hazardous and its Success must depend on the Concurrence of many Circumstances; but we are in a Situation which requires us to run all Risques. No Danger is to be considered when put in Competition with the Magnitude of the Cause and the Absolute Necessity we are under of increasing our Stock. Enterprizes, which appear Chimerical, often prove successful from that very Circumstance, Common Sense & Prudence will Suggest Vigilance and care, when the Danger is Plain and obvious, but where little Danger is apprehended, the more the enemy is unprepared and consequently there is the fain'd Prospect of Success.

Mr. Brown<sup>2</sup> has been mentioned to me as a very Proper Person to consult upon this Occasion you will judge of the Propriety of communicating it to him in Part or the whole, and as soon as possible, favor me with your Sentiments and the Steps you may have taken to forward it. If no immediate and safe Opportunity offers you will please to do it by Express. Should it be inconvenient to part with one of the armed Vessels, perhaps some other might be fitted out, or you could devise some other Mode of executing this Plan; so that, in case of a Disappointment, the Vessel might proceed to some other Island to purchase . . .

Since writing the above Col. [Elisha] Porter has undertaken to assist in the Matter, or to provide some suitable Person to accompany Harris to you, who will communicate all Circumstances to you. I am &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 385-388.

2. Either Nicholas or John Brown, merchants of Providence.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE  
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, August 4, 1775.

. . . The other [skirmish] happened at the Light House; A Number of Work men having been sent down to repair it, with a Guard of 32 Marines and a Subaltern. Major [Benjamin] Tupper, last Monday Morning [July 31] about 2 o'Clock landed there with about 300 Men Attack'd them killed the Officer and 4 Privates, the remainder thereof, [3 of] which are badly wounded he brought off Prisoners with 10 Tories, all of whom are on their Way to Springfield Gaol. But being detained by the Tide, on his Return, he was Attack'd by several Boats, but happily got thro' with the loss of one Man killed and another Wounded.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 394, which omits the number of enemy wounded as shown between brackets (Number in Papers CC I, 51, NA).

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Watertown, Aug. 4th, 1775

. . . The People at Machias, an obscure small Town in the Eastermost parts of this Colony, you may remember some time ago took two Sloops from one [Ichabod] Jones (a dog) and a Tender. they have now taken another Tender without the loss of a man, and among other things with ten bbls. powder and £50 sterling in Cash.<sup>2</sup> in this way they will be a Maritime Power. they Bid as fair for it as Charthage in the days of Queen Dido, and almost as much so as England in the days of Queen Bess. We may be able another Year to Convey the Delegates to Philadelphia (if they Choose to go by water) against the Navy of Britain.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 417, 418.2. H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, Lieutenant John Knight.GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 4th August 1775/

Sir, I have just received a Letter from General [William] Howe, who reports that he is in extreme want of the Boats, and the Assistance of the Caulker. I had the Honor to mention to you last Sunday [July 30]; neither of which are yet sent to him; I shall therefore be obliged to you to Order them to him as soon as possible, as he is very Anxious for them.

I am with great Regard and Esteem. Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN EDWARD LECRAS, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Somerset at Boston 4 August 1775

As there is Reason to apprehend the Rebels have some Intention against the Kings Ships in this Harbour, from the number of Whale Boats that have appeared on different parts for some nights past, attended with some Sloops which may be fitted as fire Vessels; I think it my Duty to acquaint you that his Maj's. Ship under my Command is in a very weak state of Defence, for want of men, from the number which are lent out of her upon different Services, several sick on board, and others at the Hospital. I have &c.

E. LeCras

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 166, MassHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN BRODERICK HARTWELL R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Boyne Boston Harbour Augt 4, 1775

I have been informed by Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* that last night he observed forty Whale Boats, with three large Boats masted and in Appearance Fire Boats, lying near Moon Island. I think it my duty on this occasion to state a particular Account of the number of men belonging to his Majesty's Ship under my Command who are doing duty at Boston, which with these lent in armed Schooners, sick aboard and at the Hospital, our late loss at the Lighthouse,

and short of Complement, reduces our numbers so much that I am obliged to beg that you will take into your serious consideration what the consequences may be, should the Rebels endeavour to burn the *Boyne*, (which I think is far from being improbable) considering she lies out of the way of any ready assistance from the rest of the Squadron, and the Rebels may be acquainted with her condition from the prisoners taken at the Lighthouse. I have &c.

Brod<sup>k</sup> Hartwell

State of the *Boynes* Company on the 4th of August 1775 at Boston

Complement made up when she left England	-----	520	
Marines			
Disembarked at Boston	-----	70	
Taken at the Lighthouse	-----	16	86
	-----	—	
Seamen			
To the Scows	-----	52	
Sent to armed Schooners	-----	13	
Sick on Board	-----	25	
on Shore	-----	5	
	-----	—	30
Short of Complement	-----	12	
Chaplain & Servant absent	-----	2	109 195
	-----	—	—
Total on board fit for Service, Officers & Servants included	-----		325

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 167, 168, MassHS Transcript.

FISHING PASS ISSUED BY VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Fishing }  
Pass } By Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White &ca —

Thos Sparks                      The five Men named in the Margin are hereby allowed to Fish, in the Schooner *Catherine*, with Liberty to procure their Bait at Apple Island

Thos Whaples

Henry Atkins

Frans Tobey

Nickerson

To The Respective Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels<sup>2</sup> at Boston

Dated at Boston the 4th. August 1775

1. Otis Collection, CUL.

2. This document was taken along with Sparks at Wellfleet in September. See Elisha Cobb to Joseph Otis, September 7, 1775. Accompanying it was a permit signed by three members of the Royal Council addressed to the officer commanding the main guard.

**W**HEREAS we the Subscribers have broke the Association of the late Continental Congress, by unloading a Part of the Cargo from on board the Ship Beulah; we do declare that we are sorry for the Offence we gave the Publick thereby, and that we will for the future strictly adhere to the said Association, and to the further Orders of the Continental Congress, the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New-York, and the General Committee of Association for the City and County of New-York, saving to Robert Murray (who is one of the People called QUAKERS) his religious Principles. Dated at New-York, the 9th of June, 1775.

Robert Murray,  
John Murray.

## To the PUBLIC.

**I**The Subscriber, Abraham H. Van Vleck, of the City of New-York, Merchant, knowing that I have committed a most atrocious Crime against my Country, by contravening one of the Recommendations of the Honourable Continental Congress, in Shipping Provisions to Nantucket, and being heartily desirous of extenuating my Crime by any Means in my Power, (tho' I am convinced at the same Time, that no pecuniary Gift, or any Submissions whatever, on the Part of an Individual of the Community, can atone for an Offence committed against the same) I do hereby without the least Compulsion, make a free and voluntary Gift of the Sloop Henry, and her Cargo, to Messrs. Isaac Sears, Oliver Templeton, Edward Fleming, and Daniel Phoenix, in Trust, for the Benefit and Advantage of the Poor of this City, giving, and granting, to the said Gentlemen, full Power, and Authority to dispose of the same in any Manner, as they may think best for the Advantage of the Poor; and if I can in any other Manner give further Satisfaction to the Public, I shall gladly embrace the Opportunity: I do not expect that my Fellow Citizens will take me immediately into Favour, but that they would so far condescend, as to let me pass unmolested;—As to my unhappy Family, I hope the good People of New-York have too much Humanity to punish the Innocent with the Guilty.

*I am the Publick's*

*Most Afflicted Servant,*

Abraham H. Van Vleck.

*New-York, August 4th, 1775.*

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho., A.M. August 4, 1775

Ordered, That the consideration of the resolutions moved by Mr. [Isaac] Low on Wednesday, the second inst. with respect to the insult offered to this Congress by destroying the boat ordered to be built for the use of His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, and which was appointed for this day, be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 100, 101.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday, August 4th [1775].

*Resolved* That Colo. [John] Dickinson, Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau & Col. [John] Cadwalader, enquire of the Associators who have the Provincial Muskets in their hands, if they are willing to enter into the service of this Province, on Board the Boats to be employed for the defence thereof. If they refuse, then that they be desired to deliver the said Arms to their respective Colonels, for the use of those Men that may enter into the said Service.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Samuel Wheeler make 100 Pikes, to be made use of on Board the different Boats, agreeable to the pattern produced to this Board.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 298.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY,  
MARYLAND <sup>1</sup>

At a Meeting of the Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County at the house of Richard Carnes in Piscataway on Friday the 4th day of August 1775 . . .

In consequence of its being Recommended by the Provincial Convention to the General Committee of Observation for the County aforesaid to call all evidences before them who may be expected can give the proper information respecting a Report that prevails of Mr. Christopher Lowndes having cleared out a Brigg from this Province for Barbadoes with Provisions, that were thrown into the hands of some of the Officers of his Majestys Ships of War for the purpose of Supplying the Army under the Command of General [Thomas] Gage; this Committee Summoned before them Mr. John Tolson aged sixteen Years and of good Reputation, who being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God before Luke Marbury one of the Right Honble the Lord Proprietarys Justices of the peace for Prince Georges County, Deposeth and sayeth, that on or about the Twentieth day of May last he sail'd from Alexandria on Board the Brigg *Harriot* Captain William Scott belonging to the said Christopher Lowndes, and that he Went Passenger on Board of her to the Island of Barbadoes, where she discharged her Cargoe and that to his the said Deponants knowledge she did not discharge or dispose of any part of it till she arrived in the Road of Barbadoes,

and that no part of the Said Cargoe was putt into the hands of any officer of his Majestys Ships of War for the purpose of supplying them or the Army under the command of General Gage –

This Deponant likewise sayeth that in Hampton Road, on their way out they were boarded by some people who said, they belonged to a Vessel of War who took one of the Hands from the Said Brigg, and this Deponant sayeth no more

Signed John Tolson

Sworn before Luke Marbury

Ordered that a Copy of these Proceedings be sent to the Provincial Convention now sitting at Annapolis

True Copy, from the Records, signed by order of the Committee

Thomas Clagett, Clerk

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 39, 40.

### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Friday 4th August [1775]

It being represented to this Convention that Mr William Neale is prosecuting a scheme for importing about two Hundred Barrels of Powder, and that he is willing to dispose of the same to the Public on its arrival, at the Rate of sixteen pounds common money per Hundred:

Resolved, that on the delivery of 200 Barrels of good Gun powder, or any less quantity, by the said William Neale, he be paid therefore at the said Rate, out of the Bills of Credit to be issued by the Convention: And further that if the said William Neale will import and deliver good and substantial Musquets, Bayonets & accoutrements, for arming any number, not exceeding five Hundred Soldiers, then on the delivery of them he shall be paid a generous price therefor, out of the said Bills of Credit.

Resolved That this Convention will replace any arms or powder or lead that may be delivered to the order of Messrs Samuel Purviance Junior, William Smith and David Stewart, or any two of them, by the people of Bermuda; or will pay the just and full value thereof at farthest, as soon as American shall be in a settled State.

Resolved, That if any persons will lend and advance to the Public any sums of money not exceeding in the whole four thousand pounds common money, and will pay the same into the hands of Messrs. Purviance, Smith & Stewart, to be by them laid out in the purchase and importation of Gunpowder and good substantial musquets, Bayonets, and accoutrements for Soldiers for the use of this Province, the Lenders shall be repaid their money out of the Bills of Credit to be issued, or if Bills of Exchange shall be lent, then the same shall be repaid in the same manner as the other loans of Bills of Exchange to this Convention.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 10, 11.

PURDIE's *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1775

Williamsburg, August 4.

Lord Dunmore reviewed his 60 body-guardsmen, lately arrived from St. Augustine, last Tuesday, [August 1] at Gosport and we hear, that he daily expects an additional reinforcement, of 40 more soldiers, from the same place. His Lordship it is said, as soon as they arrive, and when joined by the marines from the *Mercury* and *Otter* men of war, and a number of other *select friends* in different places, intends coming round to York town; from whence, if not prevented, it is likely he will pay us a visit in this city, although he cannot expect the same cordial reception as on former occasions, but will probably be received with *such illuminations, &c.* as may make him forget his way to the palace. The good people of Virginia now consider Lord Dunmore as their *mortal enemy*, and will no longer brook the many gross insults they have received from him, which are daily repeated; and the *damn'd shirtmen*, as they are emphatically called by some of his minions, it is more than probable, will make some rue, before long, their ill-timed, base, and ungenerous conduct.

The men of war's officers, we are credibly informed, have been guilty of many outrages, both at Norfolk and Portsmouth; which ungentle behaviour lately exposed one of them to the resentment of a certain mr. O'Shields, who drubbed him handsomely.

JAMES PARKER TO CHARLES STEWART<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Norfolk] 4 August [1775]

Lord Dunmore remains at Gosport, the *Mercury* and *Mars* [sic!] are with him, he has a ship fitting up on board of which he will remain till he can get some forces or the times alter, he is most unjustly and ungenerously used in this colony, to serve which he risked his life and has really its good very much at heart. He has lately had 60 soldiers from St. Augustine and expects 40 more daily, they are part of the 14th Regt which were at the Negroe hunt at St. Vincent's.<sup>2</sup>

1. *The Magazine of History*, III, 160. See note under Parker's letter of May 6, 1775, to Stewart.
2. The Carib revolt against British rule in 1773.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Charles Town Council of Safety, August 4th 1775

I was desired by the Council to intimate to you in a private manner that if it should fall in your way, it would be of publick Utility, were you to scrutinize into the Conduct of Mr [Moses] Kirkland, which according to the Accounts transmitted (I believe before you set out)<sup>2</sup> bears a very dark and suspicious aspect; an Enquiry may be made in such manner as to give no alarm, & if proper proofs can be come at, it will be highly necessary, when the Time will allow it, to inflict such punishment as his Crimes deserve; as the matter has been represented he has certainly been guilty both of Mutiny & Desertion.<sup>3</sup>

1. *South Carolina Historical Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 118.
2. Drayton, with Rev. William Tennant, was on a mission to the western part of the province, the "Back Country," to induce the inhabitants to sign the association pledging themselves to the American cause.
3. Kirkland's activities will be dwelt with at length in subsequent letters.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 4. Fine settled weather, wind southerly; beating to windward: latitude observed 31 09.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayon, *American Revolution*, I.

5 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL  
CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Postscript] [Camp at Cambridge] August 5 [1775]

We have Accounts this morning of two Explosions at the Castle, so that its Destruction may now be supposed certain. I have this morning been much alarmed with an Information, that two Gentlemen from Philadelphia, Mr. [Benjamin] Hitchborn and Captain White with Letters for General [Charles] Lee and myself and other Gentlemen have been taken by Captain [James] Ayscough at Rhode Island, and letters intercepted and sent forward to Boston with the Bearers as Prisoners. That the Captain exulted much of the discoveries he had made, and my Informer, who was also in the Boat but released, understood them to be Letters of consequence. I have therefore, dispatch'd the Express immediately back, tho' I had before resolved to detain him 'till [Josiah] Fessenden's return; I shall be anxious till I am relieved from the Suspence I am in, as to the Contents of these Letters.<sup>2</sup>

It is exceedingly unfortunate that Gentlemen should chuse to travel the only Road on which there is danger. Let the event of this be what it will, I hope it will serve as a general caution against trusting any Letters that way in future. . . .

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 398, 399.

2. The letters were of little consequence, but one, from John Adams to James Warren, spoke of a "piddling genius," who had delayed progress in Congress, and who was easily identified as John Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, with a resultant coolness between Dickinson and Adams.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, AUG. 5 [1775]"<sup>1</sup>

Since I wrote you last, our troops have had several skirmishes with the enemy, in all of which we have had the better of them. Three hundred men from our army, under the command of Major [Benjamin] Tupper, were sent to Light-house Island, on information being given that the King's troops were rebuilding it; the enemy perceived our people coming, prepared to receive them; our troops were ordered not to fire until they landed, which they did, and went boldly up to the enemy, killed ten or twelve on the spot, among whom was the commanding officer, and took the remainder, about thirty-five in number, demolished the enemy's works, and were preparing to embark, but the tide leaving them, they were obliged to tarry till its return; mean time a large number of boats from the men of war came up in order to reinforce the enemy on the island, and a smart

firing from both parties commenced; our troops however got safely back with their prisoners, with the loss of one man killed, and two or three wounded.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 10 to October 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Saturday, August 5, 1775

Whereas it has been represented to this House, that several persons are detained in Boston by General [Thomas] Gage, for the purpose of procuring the release of [Josiah] Jones and [Jonathan] Hicks from Concord Jail, and until they shall be suffered to go into Boston, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the said Jones and Hicks be released from the Jail at Concord, and suffered to go into Boston, upon condition that the several persons who have been detained on account of their imprisonment, viz: John Gill, Thomas Boylston, Peter Edes, Wm. Starr, James Lovell, Samuel Whitwell, Samuel Partridge, John Leach, Richard Boynton, and all the Selectmen of Boston, and also Benjamin Hitchborne, lately taken on board a Man of War at Newport, be suffered to come out of Boston, with their families and effects; and that the said Jones and Hicks be produced on the lines at Roxbury or Charlestown, at such time as shall be agreed on, in order to be exchanged for the persons aforesaid; and that Mr. John Pitts and Captain Brown of Watertown, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to wait on his Excellency General Washington, and desire him to send into Boston a Trumpeter with a copy of this Resolve to the Selectmen of said Town.

[Endorsed] In Council, August 5, 1775; Read and concurred and Mr. Joseph Palmer is joined.

1. Force, Comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 310, 311, from Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      Moored with Springs on our Cables in Chas Town River  
Saturday 5.                      at 1/2 past Noon Made the signal for a Pilot who came on board  
at 1 at 1/2 past 2 saluted Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves of the  
White with 15 Guns at 5 came to with the best bower above Charles  
Town in 6 fm got the stream Anchor to steady her at 9 veered a  
Cable each way and moored, with the stream Cable for a spring on  
the small, And a Hawser on the best bower:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

DIARY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDEDIAH PREBLE <sup>1</sup>

[Roxbury] Sat. Aug. 5th, 1775.

We dined very agreeably; after dinner Gen'l [John] Thomas one other Gentleman and myself rode to Dorchester Neck and viewed the lines there, which are within point blank shot of the enemy . . . We then returned to Roxbury,

viewed the Fort and lines there, which are very strong . . . This day there was a conference between Major [Benjamin] Tupper and the Regulars at their lines on the Neck. They told him they could destroy all our seaports. He told them they would do us a great favor, as it would take off our attention from Trade, and put us on agriculture, for we had a fine fertile country, enough to employ millions of people, a land that produced every necessary of life. He also told them we never would submit so long as a man was alive. I supped with the Gen'l and lodged there, had a very good bed to myself and rested well. Major Tupper brought out a letter from Treasurer Gray<sup>2</sup> to his son Allen Oates . . . There was one other letter from Gen'l Brattle<sup>3</sup> . . . He also wrote in his letter that he heard the Port of Boston was quite open, and the Custom House kept in Boston as usual, and that a ship on the 4th of this month brought into Boston two thousand and two hundred Barrels of Flour. . . .

1. George Henry Preble, *Genealogical Sketch of the First Three Generations of Prebles in America* (Boston, 1868), 61, 62. Hereafter cited as Preble, *Prebles in America*.
2. Harrison Gray, Treasurer of the Colony under the Crown, and an ardent Tory.
3. William Brattle, who began as a Son of Liberty and ended as a rabid Tory.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston Aug 5, 1775

I am sorry to give your Excellency farther trouble to explain what I thought had been clearly expressed in My last letter with respect to the *Symmetry*.

Mr Dickenson Complained that for want of proper Authority he could not perform the Service expected from that Armed Vessel, And your Excellency in your letter Augt 1. by that officer Mentions that you are under the Necessity of ordering her away – In that Case I proposed the *Scorpion* should take her birth, And that until the *Scorpion* Could Come up, I would send a Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry*, if it was agreeable to your Excellency – I intended Nothing More than to Make the *Symmetry* useful apprehending Authority alone in the officer wanting for that purpose; And Your Excellency I hope will believe that the good of the Service alone dictated that proposal and No desire or wish of mine to interfere in your Excellency's department.

I beg leave however to offer my opinion that the *Symmetry* Might remain as she is Commanded by the Agent, and Supported by the *Scorpion*, until I have it in My power to put a twenty Gun Ship there as I have already promised. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Boston 5th of August 1775

Yesterday I received two Letters from the Captains of His Majs. Ships *Somerset* and *Boyne* – Captain [Broderick] Hartwell says the Night before last forty Whale Boats, and three large Boats with Masts assembled under Moon

## GENERAL GAGE'S SOLILOQUY.

Published in New York, by H. Gaine, in August 1775.

Scene, BOSTON, besieged by the Men of Massachusetts.

“**D**ESTRUCTION waits my call—some demon say  
Why does destruction linger on her way !  
Charlestown is burnt, and Warren is deceas'd—  
Heav'n's ! shall we never be from war releas'd ?  
Ten years the Greeks besieg'd the walls of Troy,  
But when did Grecians their own towns destroy ?  
Faith, that's the point—Let those who will, say, No ;  
If GEORGE and NORTH decree—it must be so.

DOUBTS, black as night, disturb my lov'd repose—  
Men that were once my friends have turn'd my foes—  
What if we conquer this *rebellious town*,  
Suppose we burn it, storm it, tear it down—  
This land's like *Hydra*, cut off but *one* head,  
And *ten* shall rise, and dare you in its stead.  
If to subdue a league or two of coast  
Requires a navy, and so large a host,  
How shall a length of twice seven hundred miles  
Be brought to bend to two European *Flags* ?—

BUT hark the trumpet's clangor—hark—ah me !  
What means the march of *Washington* and *Lee* ?  
When men like these such distant marches make,  
Fate whispers something—that we can't mistake ;  
When men like these defy my martial rule,  
Good heaven ! it is no time to play the fool—  
Perhaps, they for their country's freedom rise ;  
North has, perhaps, deceiv'd me with his lies.—

Island; He thinks the Rebels in them will attempt to burn some of the King's Ships, and that they are probably encouraged to such a proceeding from their knowledge how few Men are in them; The Captains, above mentioned, have stated the numbers deficient in their Ships which from debarkations at Boston, Deaths, Sickness, short of Complement, and Men employed in the *Symmetry* and Scows amount to upwards of One hundred and fifty in the *Somerset*, and near two hundred in the *Boyne*.

Things being in this Situation I am under the necessity of acquainting your Excellency, that I think the immediate Safety of His Majesty's Ships require all their People to be Onboard, as their Security and defence, in Case of Attacks, must be in their Boats and Musquetry.

It would give me great Satisfaction therefore if your Excellency could fall upon some other Methods to Man the Scows and *Symmetry*, or in lieu of the Men in these Vessels spare as many Marines to the Men of War.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency that the preservation of the King's Ships alone occasions this Representation, and that however you may determine I shall invariably continue to afford You every assistance in my Power for the good of the King's Service – I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir, [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

P.S. I have sent the Caulkers to the Scows.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 5th August 1775—

Sir, I have received your two Letters of to Day and shall be glad you would send me a Return of the Number of Men you have on Board the *Symmetry* and the Scows, they shall either be returned to you, or as many Marines sent on Board your Ships.

The Movements of the Rebels Boats Occasion much Talk and Speculation; and many think they might be shut up in some of the Islands on which they frequently land, and give Time for Boats and Troops to be got ready to attack them on Shore, and that the *Lively* might have taken the whole when they last attacked the Light House. of this you will be best informed, as you will have enquired into it and know the Orders given the Ships; Major [Thomas] Musgrave informs that near One Hundred Whale Boats were seen this Morning at or near Thompson's Island: Some Fisherman Report they were seen passing the Light House, and some suppose they mean coming down the Mystick way, which is unguarded. Others think they are looking out for the Transports, which the Rebels told us this Morning had got a great Number of Sheep and Cattle from Islands in the Sound, Captain Folger, who came to the Lines this Day, informed of a Number of Rebel Cruizers about Nantucket.

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO BENJAMIN HALLOWELL <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 5th August 1775—

Sir, I have received your Letter, and do give permission that your Schooner may receive on Board for her defence, the Swivel Guns, and Hoitz you mention, from Mr Hubbard, Colonel Ewing, and Mr Webb, but at the same Time, I must observe to you that Mr Dymond is thought to be a suspected Person, that he is said to have carried both Persons, and Letters from this Town to Salem, without any Authority for so doing; therefore I am to desire you to enquire into this matter, and if you find it true to put some proper Person in his Place. I have no objection to your Vessel being Armed, and will grant her a Letter of Marque to make Prizes, which I hope she will take pains to do; but should she suffer any Vessels to pass her, that she may have in her Power to secure, I shall be obliged to withdraw her Letter of Marque, and in future take care she has no such Authority again,

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir, &ca.—

1. Gage Papers, CL.

MINUTES OF A PROVIDENCE TOWN MEETING <sup>1</sup>

At a Town Meeting holden, by adjournment, in Providence, on the 5th of August, A.D. 1775:

The Honourable Nicholas Cooke, Esq, Moderator

Whereas certain evil-minded persons, inhabitants of this Colony, and acquainted with the Creeks and Channels of the Narragansett Bay, have made it their practice of late to assist our inveterate enemies by piloting their armed Vessels up the River from Newport towards this Town, with the known design of distressing the loyal and peaceable inhabitants of the Colony, and piratically seizing their property, &c.

Wherefore it is Voted by this Meeting, that the Deputies for this Town be, and they are hereby instructed to use their influence to procure an act of the General Assembly, for inflicting the severest punishment upon such atrocious offenders, as a means of discouraging such villanous conduct in future; and that such act be made to extend to all such persons who may be guilty of such practice on any part of the coast.

1. *Providence Gazette*, August 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYS COUGH, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Fishers Island S S W Distce 2 or 3 Leag[s]

Satuy 5th

[P M] Saw Seven Sail in Sight . . . Spoke with the *Spie* Sloop & Seven Transports from Boston . . . Company with *Rose* and Seven Transports — Anchord in the Sound

1. PRO, Admiralty, 51/960.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"<sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Saturday 5      7 A M weigh'd and came to Sail out of the [Rhode Island] Harbour  
 P M Join'd Compy *Swan* & 7 Transports    saild round the S W End of Fishers Island, made Sigl to Anchor

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Sabbati, 9 ho. A.M., August 5th, 1775

Mr. John Foster informed the Congress that the committee of the several towns in Suffolk county, have resolved not to permit any cattle or live-stock to be shipped off from Suffolk County; and further informed the Congress that if he may be permitted to send a cargo of live stock to the West Indies, he does engage to bring back in return, military stores for the benefit of this Colony, if the same can be obtained in the port or ports to which the vessel shall touch, and give the first offer of the sale thereof to this Provincial Congress or such other Provincial Congress of this Colony as shall then be sitting. Mr. Foster's proposal being agreed to by the Congress,

*Ordered*, That Mr. Foster be permitted to ship a cargo of live stock to the West Indies, that he may be thereby enabled to procure military stores.

The order of the day being read, the Congress resumed the consideration of the resolutions moved by Mr. [Isaac] Low on the second inst. The same were read, and being again read paragraph by paragraph, on the reading the second resolution, to wit, the last paragraph, Mr. [Alexander] McDougall moved that the word *base* be obliterated, and the word *insolent* inserted in its stead. And the same being unanimously agreed to,

*Ordered*, That the said amendment be made.

The last paragraph being read, Mr. McDougall then moved that the words "*and enemies to their country*," be obliterated; and debates arising thereon, and the question being put it was carried in the affirmative . . .

*Ordered*, Therefore, that the words "*and enemies to their country*" be obliterated.

Mr. Gilbert Livingston then moved, (and was seconded by Mr. Melancton Smith,) that the said motion and resolution be wholly rejected. and the question being put thereon, it passed in the negative . . .

*Resolved and ordered, therefore*, That the said resolutions, with their pre-ambulatory recitals or introductions, as amended and agreed to, be entered on the journals as part of the proceedings of this Congress, and that the same be published in the newspapers . . .

*Ordered*, That the committee of the city of New-York be requested to send for any such persons before them as they shall think proper to examine; and that

they take examinations and every other such measure as they shall devise or think proper, to discover the persons who sawed and destroyed the boat lately ordered to be built for the use of His Majesty's Ship *Asia*. And that they report their proceedings and discoveries therein to this Congress, with all convenient speed.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 101-102.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR BUILDING THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY  
*Experiment*<sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia, Augt. 5, 1775

The Committee of Safety	Dr
for building the Boat called the <i>Experiment</i> . viz	
To 28 floor Timbers a 6/	8. 8. .-
To 53 fut hooks 8/	21. 4. .
To 13 ditto do	5. 4. .
To 11 Knees (Small) 3/6	1. 18. .6
To 6 Large ditto 2 at 10 & 4 a 7/6	2. 10. .0
To 38 feet of 6 Tuck Wale for Carriages a 15d	2. 7. .6
To paid for Hauling ditto & sundrys 10/	10. .-
To 2294 feet of 2 Inch Plank & 48 do a 4d is 2342 ft	39. 0. .8
To 217 ditto 2½ do 5d	4. 10. .5
To 86 ditto 4 do 8d	2. 16. .8
To 93 ditto 3 do 6d	2. 6. .6
To 116½ lb of Oakum 4d	1. 18. 10
To 1 ps. of 6 In. Wase for a Keel	3. 0. .
To Stock for the Stern 60 feet a 12d	3. 0. .0
To 1 Stern ps 20/	1. 0. .0
To 1 Bredit hook 5/	5. 0
To 1 Stern ps Knee 20/	1. 0. .0
To 2 Skidds & 2 Beams a 16/	3. 4. .0
To Staff for Rudder	10. .0
To a Keelson	1. 0. .0
To Dead Wood & Apron	18. .0
To 800 feet of 1¼ In. Boards a 3d	10. .2. .6
To 924 do 1½ Inch Pine a 2½d	9. 16. .8
To 590 do 1 In: Cedar a 2d	4. 18. .4
1 bbl of Pitch 25 & 6 breeng Tubbs a 12d Use of Yard & Stuff for Launching £6. .0. .0	7. 11. .0
	Carried over £139. .0. .7

[Page 2]

To Amount brought over			139..0..7
To James Reynolds	10½ days a	7/	3.13..6
To Thomas Thomson	1 day	do	7..
To John Turner	½ do	do	3..6
To Joseph Bowers	12½ do	do	4..7..6
To Patrick Hamilton	11½ do	do	4..0..6
To Simon Barnet	12½ do	do	4..7..6
To Richard Thomas	10½ do	do	3.13..6
To Joseph Hulings	15½ do	do	5..8..6
To James Ferguson & Boy	13 do	a 6/	3.18..0
To Edward Hynes	11 do	a 7/	3.17..
To Alexander Craig Sawyer	14 do	6/6	4.11..
To ditto Mate	12 do	a 5/	3.10..
To Edward Grew	7½ do	6/	1.17..6
To John McCombe	½ do	7/	3..6
To Joseph Fanning	½ do	7/	3..6
To Marmaduke Owens	11½ do	do	4..0..6
To David Gunnison	6 do	do	2..2..
To Nehemiah Davis	2 do	4/6	9..
To Swanson Duche	8½ do	7/	2.19..6
To Will: Falkner	16 do	do	5.12..
To Will: Donaldson	8½ do	do	2.18..6
To Thos. Linley (his Boy)	9½ do	4/	1.18..
To Reynolds Wharton	15 do	7/	5..5..
To William Toy	13 do a	7/	4.11..-
To James Carr	15 do a	6/	4.17..6
To Chas. Bradley	14 do a	7/	4.18..-
To Andrew Smiley	14 do a	7/	4.18..-
To Abel Lee	13 do a	6/	2.18..6
To Roger Herl	12 do a	5/	3..-
To Norman McCloud	13 do a	4/6	2.18..6
To Walker Turner	13 do a	7/	4.11..-

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 Carried Over £241..0..7

[Page 3]

To Amount brought over			241 . . 0 . . 7
To James Shillingsford	4	days a 9/	1 . 16 . .
To Thomas Shillingsford	2	do a 8/6	. . 17 . .
To James Shillingsford	4	do a 4/6	18 . .
To Charles Norton	2	do a 9/	18 . .
To Thomas Havens	3	do a 9/	1 . . 7 . .
To Robert Glen	2	do do	18 . .
To Alexr Brown	5½	do 7/	1 . 18 . . 6
To James Day	9	do 5/	2 . . 5 . .
To Andrew McBride	4½	do 5/	1 . . 2 . . 6
To Elias Longfetty	11½	do 7/	4 . . 0 . . 6
To William Ginn	7	do 7/	2 . . 9 . . 0
To Joshua Humphreys for his attendce &c	14	days a 10/	7 . . 0 . . 0
To 3 brush brooms		a 6d	1 . . 6
To 30 Gallons Rum		4/	6 . . 0 . . 0
To 20 lb Sugar		a 6½	10 . 10
To 4 Cleets		a 1/6	6 . . 0

bill delivered dated 20 Sepr 1775

£273 . . 8 . . 5

1. Joshua Humphreys Ledger D., 1766-1777, HSP. Another bill, for building the Pennsylvania Galley *Washington*, is in the same ledger. As the dimensions and quantities of material differs but slightly, and the workmen employed were the same as for the *Experiment*, it seems needless to give the detailed bill. It was delivered on the same day, September 20, as the *Experiment's* bill, but was about seventy-five pounds greater, £355.4.2.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 5, 1775

Mr. Owen Biddle presented to this Board from Mr. Robert Smith, a Model of a Machine for lowering and raising balace [ballast] into and out of the Chivaux de Frise, to be sunk in this River, for which Mr. Biddle is desired to return to Mr. Smith the thanks of this Board.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 299.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

In Committee, August 5, 1775

From the late conduct of Governour [Josiah] Martin at Fort Johnston, and intelligence since received by this Committee, it appears he intends erecting a King's Standard, and commencing hostilities against the people of this Province.

It is therefore, Resolved, That no person or persons whatsoever, have any correspondence with him, either by person communication, or letter, on pain of being deemed enemies to the liberties of America, and dealt with accordingly. And that no person or persons presume to remove him or themselves from hence

Philadelphia Aug<sup>t</sup> 5. 1775

Joseph Smith for Staff best - D<sup>r</sup>

To 1 small brown pine stem  
1 small rising timber

Simon Fairbank for Staff best - D<sup>r</sup> to 50 p<sup>ts</sup> 52 p<sup>ts</sup> 52 p<sup>ts</sup>

Warwick Coates D<sup>r</sup> To 1 yr of Wale 56 feet

Thomas Cairdop D<sup>r</sup> To Knees

The Committee of Safety - D<sup>r</sup>

To building the Boat called the Experiment

To 28 Floor S <sup>h</sup> . bars	28 <sup>o</sup>	8. 8
To 53 Feet boards	53 <sup>o</sup>	25. 4
To 13 ditto	13 <sup>o</sup>	5. 4
To 11 Knees (small)	3/16	1. 18. 6
To 6 large ditto	2 <sup>o</sup> 4 <sup>o</sup> 7/16	2. 10. 0
To 38 feet of Blanch Wale for Sailing 15 <sup>o</sup>		2. 7. 6
To paid for hauling ditto	10 <sup>o</sup>	10
To 229 1/2 feet of 2 inch Plank } (240 <sup>o</sup> 2362/4 229 1/2)		8. 12
To 21 <sup>o</sup> ditto	2 1/2 <sup>o</sup> 2 <sup>o</sup> 2 <sup>o</sup> 2 <sup>o</sup>	10. 5
To 6 <sup>o</sup> ditto	2 <sup>o</sup>	2. 16. 8
To 93 ditto	3 <sup>o</sup>	2. 6. 6

110 of year 1775 for laundry 16. 0. 0  
 1597  
 139 07

To Miss Longfellow	10 2 71	4 0 0
To William Quinn	7 2 71	2 9 0
To Joshua Humphreys for his attend <sup>g</sup>		0 0
14 days	10 <sup>o</sup>	
To 3 bushels		1 6
To 30 Gallons Meas		6 0 0
To 20 <sup>o</sup> Sugar		10 10
To 4 C <sup>ts</sup>		2 73 2 5
		6 0
bill delivered date 20 Sept 1775		273 8 5

Extracts from Joshua Humphreys' bill for building the Pennsylvania galley Experiment, August 5, 1775.

to Core Sound, or any other part of the Province where the Governour resides, without leave of this Committee, as he or they will not be suffered to return here.

By order:

R. Cogdell, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 40.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Charleston] Council of Safety, August 5th 1775

Dear Sir: [Bryan] Foskey returned from Philadelphia late last night – there is nothing new from the Army . . .

All Vessels bringing Gun Powder, Arms, Salt Petre, Sulphur, to be permitted to load & export provisions to the value of such military Stores, the *non-exportation notwithstanding*. This clause to be sent to all the Islands in the West Indies but not to be published in the Newspapers . . .<sup>2</sup>

We shall be driven to a Sea War at last; I hope our dear little *Maria Wilhelmina* will be replaced and Admiral Tennant fight over his ideal battles in reality, for behold a resolution of the Continental Congress much to our purpose. “That it be recommended to each Colony to appoint a Committee of Safety to superintend & direct all matters necessary for the security & Defence of their respective Colonies in the recess of their Assemblies & Conventions – and that each Colony at their *own expence* make such provision by *armed vessels or otherwise* as their respective Assemblies, Conventions or Committees of Safety shall judge expedient & suitable to their circumstances & situation for protection of their *harbours & navigation on their Seacoasts* against all *unlawful Invasions, attacks & depredations from Cutters & Ships of War.*”<sup>3</sup>

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 124, 125.

2. Benjamin Franklin’s resolution, approved by the Continental Congress, July 15, 1775.

3. Resolution in the Continental Congress, July 18, 1775. This and the previous resolution were conveyed to Charleston by Foskey, the messenger whose arrival is noted by Middleton.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 5. Fresh breeze and thunder squalls; wind southerly: lat. observed 30 51.

1. “Hatter’s Report”, Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

**6 Aug. (Sunday)**

SIR GUY CARLETON TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, H.M.S. *Gaspee*<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Quebec 6th August 1775.

Sir The Province having been repeatedly invaded in the Course of less than three Months, by a number of Rebels in Arms, who carried off a Sloop, some Bateaus and other Stores belonging to His Majesty these Enemies by recent intelligence are considerably Augmented, and daily making such preparations as indicate the most hostile intentions against the peace and Tranquility of this Province; and as it becomes necessary to collect all the Force than [that] can be got together, to resist and repel all Enemies to the Crown, I think it will tend very much to His Maj-

esty's Service, and am in consequence to require, you will, with as much dispatch as practicable proceed with the Armed Brigantine *Gaspe* under your Command to Montreal, or as high up the River, as you can with safety to your Vessel, and there Cooperate with His Majesty's Land Forces in the Defence of the Province.

You will please to consult with Brigadier General [Richard] Prescott, about all such matters, as may tend to the end proposed, and take under your Care and Management three Armed Vessels taken up for the River Service, being the Schooners *Polly*, *Isabella* and *La Providence*.

In full confidence that you will chearfully embrace this Opportunity of contributing as much as depends on you towards the Public Service, You may be Assured of the regard with which I am Sir [&c.]

Guy Carleton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript. The *Gaspee* had arrived in the river before Quebec on July 18, 1775, and upon receipt of Carleton's orders set sail up the St. Lawrence on August 7. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

DIARY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDEDIAH PREBLE<sup>1</sup>

[Roxbury] Sunday the 6th Aug. 1775

Several buildings were burnt on Charlestown Neck by our people. The ships fired ten shot at them. Two ships came in (one brought in a sloop with some live stock) one of which was supposed to come from England, as she was saluted by the castle and Admiral.<sup>2</sup> Lodg'd at Gen'l [John] Thomas's.

1. Preble, *Prebles in America*, 62.

2. The saluted vessel was the sloop *Kingsfisher*, whose journal read: "At 10 Saluted Adml Graves with 11 Guns Anchored in Boston with Bt Br in 4 fm Veered to 1/3 Cable." PRO, Admiralty 51/506. She was returning from a cruise, and not entering from Europe. She brought with her the prize sloop *Polly*, from New Haven for Barbadoes with cattle, horses and corn, Grave's Conduct, Prize List, 377, MassHS Transcript. See also, Graves to Stephens, August 17, 1775.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"<sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      The S W End of [Fishers] Island S E  
 Sunday 6                      A M Anchd 12 fm as did the *Swan* and Transports.  
    P M Employ'd bringing off Stock.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOHN DESHON TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

New London Augst 6th 1775

I have Just Recd your Letter in answer to which, I Inform you that at Present there is Ten Sail of Men of war & Transports at anchor Near North Hill Fishers Island, and one Large Ship Just now Doubled the point – I suppose they are Come to take the Stock off Fishers Island – as to shiping in our harbour we have the Brig *Nancy* and 4 more Vessels of Mr [Nathaniel] Shaws – we have no Particular News since the Post – Mr D. Stuart is Very Desirous to go on Board the men of war & Promises to Bring us anny Inteligence for the Good of N.L. that he can – we are now Going to Consult upon this Subject –

our Field Peaces are in good order & Ready for use, but the Town are not willing to part with them at this Juncture, but in my oppinion Every Town of anny Bigness in this Coleney aught to have one if for no Other use but to Know the use of them – we have Shot Suitable for them

our Militisha are now Geting under arms, & we hope to be ready to Meet our foes with fortitude – nothing further of Consequence, am yrs in Sincerity

John Deshon.

1. NHCHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Tionderoga August 6th. 1775.

I enclose you a Copy of a Report made me by the Master of the Schooner on Lake Champlain, confirming the Account that Vessels of Force are building at St Johns.

The Accounts of the Persons employed in taking and garrisoning Crown Point & this Place are involved in such a Cloud of Confusion, that I shall find it very difficult to execute your Orders on this Head with Precision. The Colony of Connecticut has paid some Part of the Money; so has the Massachusetts, and a small Sum has been advanced by me. It will be necessary therefore that Congress should order the Accounts from those Colonies to be transmitted to me, (together with the Return of the Men as made to them) specifying who the People were that have received Money, in which Case I can take the Receipts in full, charge the whole Amount in my Accounts, & give Credit for what has been advanced by others. By the Return I have already recd I find that the same Men are charged in two or three different Accounts; so that none can be paid until the whole are returned, however necessitous they may be, and many of them are most truly so.

Two Days after my Arrival here I gave such Orders respecting the issuing of Provisions that I hoped an effectual stop would have been put to any future Misapplication, in which I have been disappointed. In mentioning this I do not mean to impeach the Integrity of the Men employed. I believe them honest and well meaning: but however willing they were to obey, they were so ignorant of Forms, that it was not easy for them to get into a proper Train, and therefore I ordered the Deputy Commissary General to send up a Person (whom I named and knew to be equal to the Task) to give them such explicit Directions and Forms, as that they will not hereafter labour any Difficulties to discharge their Duty with Propriety & Regularity, and Mr John N. Bleeker is now employed for that essential Service.

Out of about five Hundred Men that are here, near one hundred are sick, and I have not any Kind of Hospital Stores, altho I had not forgot to order them immediately after my Appointment. The little Wine I had for my own Table, I have delivered to the Regimental Surgeon. That being expended I can no longer bear the Distress of the sick, and impelled by the Feelings of Humanity, I shall take the Liberty immediately to order a Physician from Albany (if one can be got there, as I believe there may) to join me with such Stores

as are indispensably necessary. If Congress should approve of this Measure they will please to signify what Allowance of Pay will be made – If not I shall discharge the Person whoever he be, paying him for the Services he may have performed.

Lieutenant Col [Samuel] Mott is still here. I am at best but a very indifferent Judge of the engineering Business; but from [what] I can discover he appears to me as well qualified as any Gentleman that can be got, who is not regularly bred to the Business. I am sure he is active and has the Service much at Heart, and I could wish if his Appointment is to be confirmed, that his Commission might be transmitted me.

It is more than probable that before I can receive your Answer to this Letter, I shall have a Sufficiency of Boats to transport what Troops I am likely to have to St Johns if I should be ordered there (for, after deducting what will be absolutely necessary to garrison these Places, and bring a Supply of Provisions, I shall, at most, have only twelve Hundred Men) In that Case I wish to be informed what I am to do with the Carpenters that are here; for altho I think it necessary to build more Boats, yet I ought to know whether Congress means that I should build a naval Force superior to that of the Enemy. If so, I must keep them, and beg some more good Builders. The Boats I have found on the Lake are so bad, that the Labour we have bestowed upon them is in a great Measure lost.

As the Commander of the Sloop has left her, of which I was advised on my Arrival at Albany, I wrote to the New York Provincial Congress to send me up a Man, which they have accordingly done, and I am just now informed that Congress has appointed another.<sup>2</sup> If so, I beg the Directions of Congress, how I am to dispose of Capt [James] Smith the present Commander.

I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler.

[Endorsed] Read in Congress Sepr 14th 1775.

1. Papers CC., 153, I, 102, NA.
2. This was an unfounded rumor.

CAPTAIN EDWARD MOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Ticonderoga the 6th Augt. 1775

Lt [Jeremiah] Halsey hath ben from the Company Ever since the Latter Part of June, on bord the Vessels for which Service he is now Discharged and is Honourably Paid for but He Still Talks of not joining the Company any more if he Should not; Should be glad of Comision to Fill the Company

1. Trumbull Papers, Conn SL.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775

[Off North Florida Coast]

Aug. 6 Fine settled weather, with fresh gales: lat. obsd. 29 55.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

7 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Halifax August 7th 1775 –

Sir I acquainted you in my last that there was one Barton a Ship Carpenter who had been employed on Lake Ontario, had promised to give to me proposals for the raising such a Number of Carpenters & Mariners as you proposed in your Letter to me; I now inclose you his proposals to me for that purpose, which I think Reasonable; & under the Terms he has proposed, I think they cannot be engaged in this Province; I have therefore Ordered him to Sett about Raising if he can 25 of each Class or more with all expedition, promising they shall enter into pay upon their signing their Agreement. I must acquaint your Excellency that Wages are very high in this Province, the Labourers being few, Farmers give in the Country 3/6d to 4/ Per Day at this Season & find them with Provision.

I thought no time was to be lost that this affair require'd Dispatch, and I do assure your Excellency that I will expedite it by every means in my power. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

INFORMATION GIVEN BY THOMAS LOWDEN AT CORNWALLIS, NOVA SCOTIA<sup>1</sup>

(Copy) Duplicate

Nova Scotia ss

The Deposition of Thomas Lowden Master of the Schooner *Rebecca* (who Arrived in Cornwallis in the Night between the 6th & 7th of August 1775) taken before John Burbidge Esqr One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for King's County –

This deponent being duly Sworn, deposeth and saith, that he left Passamaquoddy, or Island of Campo Bello, on Friday the 4th Instant, that some days before he this Deponent sailed, One Capt Knap in a Brig Arrived there, and several others, who informed this Deponent that there was Eleven Privateers on the Coast seven from New York and four from Philadelphia, and he understood that the greatest part of them carried Twenty Guns each, and several more were expected to sail from the above Places in a Few Days, and this Deponent was told that one of the Privateers of Twenty Guns had fallen in with a Forty Gun Ship of War, and had an Engagement near Martha's Vineyard, but the Privateer got away; that he was also told about Six Weeks ago a large Ship arrived at Philidelpia laden with Ammunition &c. and landed it, and Sailed again, but was not told where She was from, or where going, that it was publickly talked at Camp Bello that preparations were making in New England to send a Number of Provincial Troops into Nova Scotia, under the Command of one Colol Preeble to prevent Provision going to Boston, and also to destroy those who Sold and purchased for that Purpose, and particularly the Transports at Windsor, that Capt Night [Lieutenant Knight] commander of the Schooner *Diligent* as he was told, was on his Business Serveying, put into Machias River, and one Smith desired them to come on Shore on a Friendly manner on which Mr Night and

some Officers went on Shore, where they were immediately made Prisoners, & ordered the Vessel to be brought up which was done and the Vessel Stript and both Officers and Men ordered to be sent to this Congress, this Deponent was informed that a large Sloop from Philadelphia with Provisions &ca bound to Halifax was taken and Carried into Machias, that they proposed paying them for the Provisions and to dismiss the Vessel and People, that Mr William Shey and Mr Kerby's Son of Halifax was on board said Sloop when taken – And further this Deponent saith not.

(Signed) Thomas Lowden

Taken & Sworn before me at Cornwallis this 7th Day of August 1775

(Signed) John Burbidge, Jus. Peace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

PROTEST BY MASTER AND CREW OF THE SEIZURE OF THE SCHOONER *Ann* <sup>1</sup>

By this public Instrument of Protest be it known & made manifest unto all whom it doth or may concern, That on the Seventh Day of August 1775, before me John Wendell of Portsmouth in the Province of New Hampshire Esq. Notary & Tabellion publick by Lawfull authority admitted, sworn & registered by the Clerk of his Majesty for Faculties in Chancery London, personally appeared Robert Sanders, jun. Skipper, and Jacob Tibbets, Isaac Remmick & Abm Mathews, mariners & Fishermen late belonging to the Schooner *Ann* of wch Titus Salter of Portsmo aforesaid Merchant was sole owner, who being all sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do solemnly declare, that they arrived in sd Schooner from a short voiage at Rye in the Province aforesaid about four miles from this Harbour on the 21st day of June last past, having on board abt Thirty Quintals of Fish, that these Deponents all belonged to the said town of Rye and having taken out said Fish, they then put on board some dry Fish to the amount of fifteen Quintals to bring round in the Schooner to the owner to deliver up with said Schooner as they had laid aside all thoughts of going out on a Fishing voiage again; That they lay wind bound & being a barr'd Harbour they could not get out till the 5th of July, at which time they sailed and were then seized off the Harbour by a Boat belonging to his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*, Andrew Barclay Esq. commander for a Breach of the Act of Parliament for the restraining the Fishery of the New England Colonies, and having taken the Schooner into Possession they carried her into the Harbour & moor'd her near the *Scarborough* & dismissed these Deponents, and these Deponents further declare that the said Schooner was not out of Rye River from June 21 to July 4th and that they have not been cited to appear at any of his Majesty's Courts of Admiralty to reply unto any Libel that may have been taken out to justify said seizure, and further these Deponents say not.

Wherefore, I, the said Notary did & do in behalf and at the request of these Deponents solemnly protest against the Winds & Seas as the sole & only cause that prevented the said Schooner from being delivered up before the time aforesaid, for all costs, Losses, Damages & Expences by these Deponents sustained or which may hereafter be sustained by them or the owners & Insurers, or any

Person interested in the said Schooner & Fish by means or account of the said Detention.

Thus done & protested at Portsmouth aforesaid, the day & date aforesaid in the Presence of Thomas Bickford & Robert Sanders Senr witnesses hereto requested.

In Testimonium cujus presens Instrumentum manu ac sigillo officii Signavi rogatus

John Wendall, Not. Pub.

Robert Sanders, Jun<sup>r</sup>

Jacob Tibbets

Isaac Remick

his

Ab<sup>m</sup> X Mathews

mark

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390, 391.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH PALMER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Cambridge, August 7, 1775

In respect to the Boats &c. from Salem, I doubt, in the first place, whether they can be brought over by Land – in the Second, I am sure nothing could ever be executed here by Surprise; as I am well convinced that nothing is transacted in our Camp, or Lines, but what is known in Boston in less than 24 hours, – indeed, Circumstanced as we are it is scarce possible to do otherwise, unless we were to stop the Communication between the Country and our Camp and Lines; in which case, we shd. render our Supplies of Milk, Vegetables &c. difficult and precarious. – We are now building a kind of Floating Battery, when that is done and the utility of it discovered, I may possibly apply for Timber to build more, as Circumstances shall require.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 405.

LETTER FROM "A TRAVELLER" TO THE EDITOR OF *Boston Gazette* IN  
WATERTOWN <sup>1</sup>

Watertown, August 7, 1775

Since I came out of Boston, where I left all my effects to the mercy of a lawless banditti, to amuse myself have made several excursions into different parts of the country, and with pleasure have observed the firm, steady, and resolute spirit which animates every individual. My last tour was to Portsmouth, where, to my astonishment, and I dare say to the astonishment of all America, I was informed, that the Committee for that Town had voted to supply the *Scarborough* man-of-war, lying in their river, with from four to six hundred weight of fresh beef weekly. This account, I must confess, appeared to be scarce credible; but on making farther inquiry, found it too true; and the reason assigned for this conduct was owing to the threats of a paltry sloop-of-war to deprive the inhabitants of fresh fish, unless they afforded them such a quantity of beef. Too great a soul I hoped animated the breast of every American to submit to so insolent a demand; and instead of treating it with the contempt such insolence

deserved, to the surprise of many of the worthy inhabitants, the Committee passed a vote to supply with provisions those butchers of our countrymen, who are daily pilfering and destroying our property, and exercising every act of cruelty to distress and destroy us, by this unexampled instance submitting to their imperious demands, and, like suppliants, entreating their favour. Such conduct, at so important a crisis, cannot but wring tears from every well-wisher to America. This fact is of so important a nature, that it ought in justice to be made publick; and I hope it will so affect the minds of the worthy inhabitants of that Town, as to exclude from all further service the timid members of a Committee who act in direct opposition to both Continental and Provincial Congresses.

A Traveller.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th series, III, 59.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Preston at Boston 7th August 1775

My Lord, I cannot express My Astonishment upon reading Your Lordships Letter July 17th representing the behaviour of Captain [John] Macartney of His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, whom I had considered and sent to your Assistance As an experienced Officer, extremely diligent and punctual and without the least doubt of his Conduct in all respects meriting Your Lordships particular Acknowledgements: It gives me great concern to find 'tis totally the Reverse – I have therefore with all possible dispatch sent Captain James Montagu in His Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* with Orders for Captain Macartney to return to me immediately in the *Mercury*; And as He must answer for his Offences upon Your Accusation at a Court Martial, I am to request Your Lordship will furnish me with such further Proofs of Captain Macartney's Guilt as can be procured and are requisite to support your Lordships Charge against him.

The *Otter* and *Kingsfisher* is the whole force I can at present send to Virginia, and as the Command will de[v]olve on Captain [Matthew] Squire, I shall be happy to know that he Zealously endeavours to exert his utmost for the good of His Majesty's Service, and is acceptable to your Lordship

Sign'd Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Charles Town River [Boston] the 7th Augt 1775

Sir I last Night was honoured with your Letter inclosing a Copy of One from his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore referring You to me respecting Captain [John] Macartney's Conduct and my knowledge of facts; in so delicate a point I thought it proper to stay until Morning to give my Answer, as his Lordship had not made me acquainted when I left Virginia with the purport of his Letter, And beg leave to remark that I never was present when his Lordship and Captain Macartney had any Consultations, what comes to my knowledge is as follows – On Captain Macartney's Arrival in his Majesty's Ship *Mercury* at York, he came Onboard the *Fowey* and asked me that State of the Country, And if I went onshore.

Sir

Lovely, Nantasket Road <sup>received 8-7-75</sup> 7 Aug: 1775

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of Yesterday, with the Extract of a Letter from General Gage, enclosed therewith, and agreeable to your request, I have send you the account of the Movement of the Rebel Whale Boats, the Morning they last attacked the Lighthouse.

These boats were hauld over the beach that join Nantasket to the Main, in the dawn of the Morning, so that we saw nothing of them till they where near all over to the Lighthouse which they soon had possession of and the Skiff was on fire directly almost as soon as I could make the Signal to blow the Ships above. I must here observe that at this time there was but little wind, and that fair Southerly, and which soon died away to near a calm, as that had I think, or slight. In the first place the Lovely could not have cleared Georges Island and in the next (as it proved a calm) she must have anchored again. And I do declare it, as my opinion, that by the resistance by the party at the Lighthouse, was of so short duration, it was not possible for the Lovely to have prevented the destruction of the Skiff the taking the party prisoners, or the the Recovery of the Skiff.

I am Sir  
Your most humble Servant  
T. M. White

Captain Thomas Bishop to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, August 7, 1775.

I answered that I looked upon the People to be in a State of Rebellion and thought it was dangerous to go, that the next day being the 12th of July last, Captain Macartney came Onboard the *Fowey* to wait on his Lordship, and afterwards went onshore to wait on the President of the Council; On his return from the President's Onboard the *Fowey* Captain Macartney told his Lordship that he was to dine with the President that day, and that his Lordship told him it was imprudent, as the President was a Man disaffected to Government, and that at his house he would most likely meet some who were then under Arms and in actual Rebellion. And that his Lordship used many Arguments to shew the impropriety of Accepting the invitation without effect, As he went and dined with the President, And, that at that time there were three or four hundred Armed Men in the Town; from the nature of Circumstances the foregoing cannot be otherwise than Awkward; And are the facts that come to my knowledge

Sign'd Geo: Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Lively* Nantasket Road 7th Augt 1775

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of Yesterday, with the Extract of a Letter from General [Thomas] Gage, enclose'd therewith; and agreeable to your request, I here send you the account of the Movement of the Rebel Whale Boats, the Morning they last attacked the Lighthouse,:

There boats where hal'd over the beach that join Nantasket to the Main, in the dawn of the Morning, so, that we saw nothing of them till they where near all over to the Lighthouse which they soon had possession of, and the House was on fire directly, almost as soon as I could make the Signal to Alarm the Ships above; I must here observe, that, at this time, there was but little wind, and that far Southerly, and which soon died away to near a Calm, so that had I cut or slipt; In the first place, the *Lively* could not have cleared Georges Island, and in the next (as it proved so Calm) She must have Anchored again. And I do declare it, as my opinion, that as the resistance, by the party at the Lighthouse, was, of so short duration, it was not possible for the *Lively* to have prevented the destruction of the House, the taking the party prisoners, or the Boats geting of[f]. I am Sir [&c.]

Th<sup>o</sup> Bishop

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir./,

Boston 7th August 1775.

Inclosed Your Excellency will receive An Account of the Number of Men at present employed in the *Symmetry* and Scows belonging to the Men of War. Also Captain [Thomas] Bishop's Answer to me on sending that part of your Excellency's Letter of the 5th Inst wherein his Conduct is blamed the day the Light House was burned; I hope Captain Bishop's Letter will satisfy Your

Excellency it was not in his power to get at the Rebels, I was before so from the Reports made to Me – Your Excellency may be assured that it will give Me unspeakable Uneasiness if any Opportunity is missed by the Squadron of attacking the Enemy with the least prospect of Advantage and that I will most certainly punish to the utmost of my power every Person guilty of the smallest Neglect on a Service of such importance. I have the Honor to be with great respect, Sir, [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

[Enclosure] List of Men belonging to the Squadron doing duty in the *Symmetry* and *Scows*. Vizt

<i>Somerset</i> .....	Scows .....	17	
	<i>Symmetry</i>	38.....	55
<i>Preston</i> .....	Scows .....		34 and an officer
Total in <i>Symmetry</i> & <i>Scows</i> .....			<u>89</u>

August 7, 1775.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1775

Newport, August 7.

Last Thursday morning [August 3] the ships *Rose* and *Swan* sailed from this harbour, and carried with them a brig, belonging to Mr. William Tweedy, of this town, loaded with molasses,<sup>1</sup> a sloop belonging to Connecticut, loaded with molasses, and a sloop freighted with sugar and molasses for New-York; <sup>2</sup> these vessels, we hear, were sent to Boston; a brig and sloop belonging to Col. Joseph Wanton, of this town, and a sloop belonging to Messrs. Charles Wickham, Robert Stoddard and Benjamin Hicks, of this town, with similar cargoes, were left behind, and released. The above vessels all arrived here, from the West-Indies, within about a week before. (*Impartiality.*)

A gentleman from the American camp says – Last Wednesday [August 2], some rifle-men, on Charlestown side, shot an officer of note in the ministerial service, supposed to be Major Small or Bruce, and killed 3 men on board a ship in Charlestown ferry, at the distance of full half a mile; that General [Thomas] Gage had lately sent 2 armed schooners to Machias, or to some place near it, with cash to buy live stock, and gave orders to take the flock by force if the inhabitants would not sell it, which they did refuse, when the schooners people attempted to take off the stock; upon which the inhabitants rose, made all the men prisoners, seized on the schooners and cash, and shared about 5 £. sterling a man.<sup>3</sup>

Last Monday [July 31] as two gentlemen from Philadelphia, with 5 others, were going from this town to Providence, in a two mast boat, they were fired upon by the *Rose* man of war and several barges, near Prudence; they run the boat ashore and endeavoured to make their escape, but the people in the barges landed and took 5 of them, among whom were the Philadelphia gentlemen,<sup>4</sup> who had a number of letters from different persons to the Westward, which letters Capt. [James] Wallace, of the *Rose*, got into his possession, and gave out that they contained some

mighty secrets relative to the designs of the Congress: The gentlemen and the letters, we hear, have been sent to Boston.

1. The brig *Catherine*, Timothy Pearce, master, from Hispaniola, whose cargo was bought for the army in Boston, and the vessel liberated, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.
2. The sloop with both sugar and molasses, was the *Cherry*, Amos Monson, master. Both vessel and cargo were bought for the army in Boston. The identity of the second sloop, with molasses only, has not been determined, as she was not proceeded against in Boston Admiralty Court, Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript.
3. The rifleman story was an idle rumor. The Machias account is a garbled version of the taking of the *Margaretta*.
4. Benjamin Hichborn and Captain White.

#### MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Monday, 7. Aug 1775.

Mr [Benjamin] Huntington, one of the committee appointed at the last meeting, reported that he had not yet found a very proper and suitable small vessel to be fitted out as a runner and cutter &c.

After much discourse about the matter of arming the same &c., he with the other committee [were] directed to make further inquiry &c. and report.

Cap. [Robert] Niles (appointed at the last meeting to be captain of said small vessel) was present and accepted to take the command of her &c.

The news of 3 or 4 men of war and 8 or so other ships appearing off New London, yesterday morning, being bro't by express the same day, we are now further informed by Col. Huntington &c., that they are bearing to Fishers Island, supposed with a design to take the stock, &c.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 114.

#### NATHANIEL SHAW JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL, CAMBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

New London Augst 7th 1775 -

This last Evening & Yesterday we have been much alarm'd by the Appearance of Nine Ships and 3 Other Top Sail Vessells who were the best part of Yesterday beating between the Gull Islands and this Harbour, but now find they are all at Anchor to the East ward in Fisher Island Sound and beleive they Intend Robbing that Island of what little Stock is Remaining, their, wich is only Milch Cows, Store Sheep & working Oxen, the others that were In Case to Kill were taken of[f] the Day before, and by a Boat from Plum Island I find the Inhabitants Intend to take of[f] the Principal part their, and have Assembled Six or Seven hundd Men att Montaug to Guard their Stock so that I beleive they will have none, that will be so fatt as to Disagree with their Stomachs - we have the Miletia of the County in Readiness to Receive them In Case they are a Mind to make a tryall on the Main -

am very Glad to hear you have got the birth of Commissary General - is their Nothing I Can let you have, West India Goods you know I am never without, and what is the Moast you Can obtain for [from] me if I deliver you Flower att Providence or the Camp, I think I Could git that Article to Providence as well as any Man in this Colony - have had a Boat Constantly Plying between hear and

that Town for this Month past & have mett with no Difficulty, as I am Constantly Inform'd where the Cruising Vessells are –

I should Inclose you Rivingtons & Holts Thursday Papers,<sup>2</sup> but the Collected is Carried them on Board the Fleet at Fisher Island, as he beleives by the Accotts their will be an Alteration of Measures Soon he thinks it may have sum Influence on their Conduct if he can make them beleive it – I Every moment Expect him on Shore if he comes before the post setts out will Advise you the Result [&c.]

Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw Jun<sup>r</sup>

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

2. Rivington's *New York Gazetteer*, and Holt's *New York Journal*.

DR. BENJAMIN GALE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Killingsworth 7 Augt 1775 –

You[r Congress dou]btless have [had intim]ations of [the Inven]tion of [a new machine] for [the Destru]ction of [Enemy Ships, but I sit] down to Give [you an Account] of that [Machine and] what Exper[iments have] been alr[eady made wit]h it, what I relate y[ou] may Intire[ly rely] upon to be fact – I will not at this time attempt to Give You a Minute Description of the Form, as the Post is now Waiting, thus Much, it doth not Exceed 7 feet in Length, and the Depth not more than 5½ feet, the Person who Navigates it, sits on a Bench in the Center of the Machine – The Person who invented it, is a student of Yale Colledge, and is Graduated this Year – Lives within five Mile of me. I was the second Person who ever was permitted to see it, there being no other Workman but himself & Brother, Excepting what Iron Work is wanted, which was done by His direction, His Plan is to place the Cask Containing the Powder on the Outside of the Machine, and it is so Contrived, as when it strikes the Ship, which he proposes shall be at the Keil it Grapples fast to the Keils – and is Wholly Disengag'd from the Machine, he then Rows off, the Powder is to be fired by a Gun Lock fixed within the Cask which is sprung by Watch work, which he can so order as to have that take place at any Distance of Time he pleases – The Experiments that has as Yet been Made are as follows – In the Most Private Manner he Convey'd it on Board a Sloop In the Night and Went out into the Sound, He then sunk under Water, where he Continued about 45 Minutes without any Inconveniency as to Breathing, he Can Row it either Backward or forward Under water about 3 Miles an Hour – And Can steer to what Poi[nt o]f Compass he [pl]eases – he can Rise to the [Surface of] the Water w[here and] when he Pleases to [get a fr]esh supply [of air wh]en that is Exhausted [Inside th]e Machine [is a Barometer] by which he can [tell the dep]th under w[ater and can] admit water if [needed] to Bring [the Machine] into a perfect [Equilibr]ium with [the water] he has allso another Pair of Oars by whi[ch he] can Rowe it either up or Down – and a forcing Pump by which he Can free himself from the Water which he Admits to bring the Machine to a Proper Equilibrium with the Water at the Top he has a pair of Glass Eyes by which he sees Objects Under Water – These Parts are all Compleat and these Experiments he has Already Made I might add, he has an Anchor by which he

Can remain in Any Place to Wait for Tide Oppy &c and again Weigh it at Pleasure – about 1000 wt of Lead is his Ballast, part of which is his Anchor, which he Carries on the outside at Bottom of the Machine, this story may Appear Romantic, but thus far is Completed and All these Experiments above related has been Actually Made, He is now at New Haven with Mr Doolittle an Ingenious Mechanic in Clocks &c Making those Parts which Conveys the Powder, and secures the same to the Bottom of the Ship, and the Watchwork which fires it – I every Minute Expect his return, when a full Tryal will be made, and Give me Leave to Say, it is all Constructed with Great simplicity, and upon Principles of Natural Philosophy, and I Conceive is not Equall'd by any thing I ever heard of or Saw, Except Dr Franklins Electrical Experiments – he Builds it on his own Acct, he was Urged to Ask some Assistance from the Government, Upon the Leiut Govrs seeing it they Offered him Assistance, but it was so Inconsiderable a sum, he refusd it, and Says he will go through with it at his own Risque – the Only Objections in my Mind from what I have seen of the Machinery of it is that he Cannot see under Water so Deep so perfectly as to fix it right, and wh 100 wt of Powder will force its way through the ship I fear the Water will give way before the Bottom of the Ship, and the force of the Explosion Eluded – the Whole Machine may be Transported in a Cart – I might have added he has made the Experiment of firing Powde[r] Under Water after remaining there 25 Minutes – I have been Long Urging him for permission to Acquaint You with these facts He at Length has Consented with this Condition that I request You would not Mention the Affair Untill he has made the Experiment, when Completed, if Agreeable I will Acquaint You with the Experiments he makes before he goes with it down to Boston, He is Quite Certain he Can Effect the thing and his reasoning so Philosophically and Answering every Objection I ever made that In truth I have great relyance upon it –

. . . I ask Ten Thousand Pardons for presuming to Trouble You with this Long Acct which I fear will Appear to You too Romantic to Obtain Beleiff – but have Endeavoured in the Strictest Sense to relate Facts Truly . . .

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 61, APS. Parts of this letter are torn or blurred. The words within brackets are supplied largely on the basis of a subsequent letter from Dr. Gale to Silas Deane, which described the same machine.

WILLIAM TRYON, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York 7th Aug. 1775

On the 13th ultimo a Boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship of War the *Asia* (the only Kings Ship now in this Harbour) under the command of Captn [George] Vandeput was seized and set on Fire by the Mob. The Mayor and Corporation took up the Matter as a high misdemeanor, & attempted a discovery of the perpetrators of an outrage so manifestly contrary to the general sense and inclination of the Citizens. At the same time they engaged to Captain Vandeput an immediate restitution, and in that were supported by both the City Committee & Provincial Congress. The Boat when partly finished has since in the night been

secretly cut in Pieces. An other Boat I am told is to be built, and I hear it is to be secured against any attempts to destroy it.

The Kings Stores have been frequently broke in upon, and some carried away.

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VIII, 597.

#### MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

At a Meeting of the Committee 7 August 1775

The Committee resumed the Consideration of the Question relating to Messrs. Ashburner & Place and Mr Johnson Gildart, but there being but few Members present, and the Question being of very great Importance it was thought most adviseable to refer it to the Determination of the Provincial Convention.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

#### MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND <sup>1</sup>

Mr Thomas Gantt Chareman

Thomas Williams Clk

In consequence of a Recommendation from the Honourble Provincial Convention Directed to the General Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County, Mr Christor Lowndes Attended. the following Questions were asked Him

Quest 1st Whether the Brigg *Harriatt* Captn Willm Scott Master Clear'd out in may 1775 by Mr Lowndes out of this Province for Barbadoes, was Seiz'd & Carried to boston by some officer or Officers of his Majesties Ships of War there Station'd

Anser She was not taken nor Carried to Boston

Quest 2d Whether Mr. Lowndes ever Receiv'd any Letter from Henry Lloyd of Boston respecting the said Brigg *Harriott* or Cargo -

Anser He never Receiv'd Any -

Mr Lowndes produced the following Evidences in His defence -

Letters to Mr Lowndes from his Corrospondants in Barbadoes Dated July 1st, 13th & 14th from Philip Lyscott & Compy were produced from which it appears that 19 barreles of flour, 2545 bushels Corn 387 barrs of Iron 20 barreles of Pork, 20 Barreles of hering 19,865 Shingles and 2718 Staves were landed for Mr Lowndes, Accot

A Letter from Mr Biddle of Philadela was produced by Mr Thos Richardson of Geo: Town dated 31st July saying that Capt Scott, was Arrived at Barbadoes & that the Bred ship'd by Mr Richardson on board the Brigg *Harriott* was sold

By the above Evidence & the deposition of John Tolson <sup>2</sup> who was a Passenger on board the Brigg *Harriott* to & from Barbadoes, it appears Clear to this Committee that there is not the least foundation for the Charge of Collusion, propagated against Mr Lowndes -

Mr Lowndes prays this proceeding with Mr Tolson's Deposition at Large may be publish'd in the *Maryland Gazette* for his Vindication to the Public –

It is the Opinion of this Committee that these proceedings be publish'd as Soon as possible

Sign'd by Order

Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams Clk

In Committee Augt 7th 1775 – Bladensbg

Mr Thos Gantt Chareman

The Committee took into Consideration the Letter from the Honol Provincial Congress, Relative to Mr Munro's Escape from Bladensdg and are of Opinion that Mr. Richard Henderson was no ways Aiding Assisting or Even Privy to the Said George Munro's Escape Sign'd by Order

Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams Clk

1. Md. Arch.

2. See John Tolson's deposition, August 4, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 7

A M Impressed 3 Men from the *Owen* from Glasgow for James River . . . .

P M arrived here the *Arundel* Schooner. Received the Mate and People from her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

[New Bern, August 7:]

By a gentleman just come to Town from Cape Fear, we have a certain account that the armed force which lately went down to burn Fort Johnston have effected the same by destroying all the houses and rendering the Fortress entirely useless. Captain [John] Collet, who commanded that Fort, it is said had a number of slaves, which he had instigated to revolt from their masters, actually concealed in the Fort, which were again recovered by their several owners; for this treachery they burnt his dwelling-house, with all his furniture, and every thing valuable he had not time to get on board the man-of-war.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 40.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775

[Off St. Augustine]

Aug. 7. Made the Mattanzas at night; came to under the fort, in seven fathoms water and rode all night. At 6 A.M. got under way, and run down towards the bar of Augustine; where, we saw a sail at anchor off the bar. We ran down to her, and hailed her; and found her to be the brigantine *Betsey*, commanded by Captain Alvere

Lofthouse, from London. We boarded her with our sloop, and upon strict search, found on board of her a large quantity of gun-powder; of which we took one hundred and eleven barrels, one half barrel, and thirty small kegs. Said vessel had on board of her, twelve soldiers from the shore, eight seamen, the captain, two mates, and steward, which was in number twenty-three men; and our number was twenty-one whites, and five blacks. Our situation was such on this occasion, that we thought it most prudent to bribe the men; which we did with one hundred pounds currency: and the captain accepted a draught for one thousand pounds Sterling for the powder, drawn on Mr. John Edwards, of Charlestown. And at half past 11 A.M. after spiking up two pieces of cannon, that were mounted on board said brigantine, we re-embarked our men, and made sail with a light air at E.N.E. The wind weared to the Northward, at 4 P.M. we passed the River St. John's, and passed a small boat stretching to the Southward.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Me dear frind

Cap Nicholas mole August the 7, 1775

This my 3d letter to you sense I arovd out the porte of lugan [Leogane] a serting that I could not corlect no more powder, then 5000 wearth from 2s 6d to 3s 9d pr lb I have bin to all the out ports my Self cap franways [Cape Francois] Port au pee [Port de Paix] poart Dolphin & mont Cristo Excluded Which I have made the *macaroni* a franch bottom & is gon to those poarts in quest of powder Capt Georg Champlin arovd hear this day from the cap in forming me that the *macaroni* had bin thear and could not get any thear & had Sald for pour Dolphin thear is none to be hand at windwd I have many frinds in the porte than in case of any arrivals from france thay will purchass and Ship it a meadeatly to me. So I think I have tuck every method in order to get powder

Capt. Champlin tels me that the last powder that wass Sold at the cap wass at 7 bitts<sup>2</sup> pr lb he has all of his cargoa on board un Sold Mr Pocal at the cap is to Send him a set of franch paper for his Vessel so I emagan that he perposes to go out to the Cap and lie for the arivals from france. I have all of my candels & flower & 40 bbls por, of the *macaroneys* lt Voyag now by me it is on possible to Sel any thing hear or in any part of the franch dominions Islands for Cash I have had advice from Jamica it will not du to go thear if I can not Suckseed to windward I Will Cum a meadeatley hom or Shift it & weate for aroivalls which is Vary Esxpenseef Staying a Shoar or traveling in this Island it is un possible for me to relate my forteegs after powder but I bear out with a chearfull hart

From Sir your Varey Humble Servt

W<sup>m</sup> Packwood

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. A bit was a Spanish silver piece worth about 12½ cents.

8 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Halifax 8th August 1775

This Letter will be delivered to you by the *Halifax* Packet, who Carries Provisions with her for the Use of the Navy and Army as Specified in her pass and in the Margin of it.

I am afraid these supplies will very soon fail, as there are frequent Exportations from all parts of the Country, and there has been for sometime a Scarcity however what Supplies can be afforded shall be duely sent to Boston taking every precaution to prevent any private Transactions to be carried on Contrary to the meaning of the Passes, and I shall do all in my power to prevent any improper uses of them. I am Sir &c.

Frans Legge

1. Letter Book of the Governor and Council, Commencing October 19th, 1760 and ending in 1784, 214, N.S. Arch. Hereafter cited as Council Letter Book, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP, *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Cape Ann Harbour N E 1 Mile

Tuesday 8

at 5 A M Weighd and Came to Sail at 8 Saw two Sails to the Ed gave Chace at Noon took a Schooner from Hispaniola Bound to Salem. at 1 P M Hoisted out all the Boats Came to Anchor in Cape Ann Harbr off Ten pound Island Sent Lieut. Thornborough With the Pinnace Long boat and Jolly Boat to bring out a Schooner that Run in to get Clear at the same time the Master in a Small Schooner with the Gunner and some People after the Boats Passd a point the Rebels fird on the Boats which was Returnd from the Bts fird from the Ship on the Town for Several Hours to Releave the Boats found it Impossable left off firing<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.  
2. See Linzee to Graves, August 10, 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Camp at Cambridge, August 8, 1775

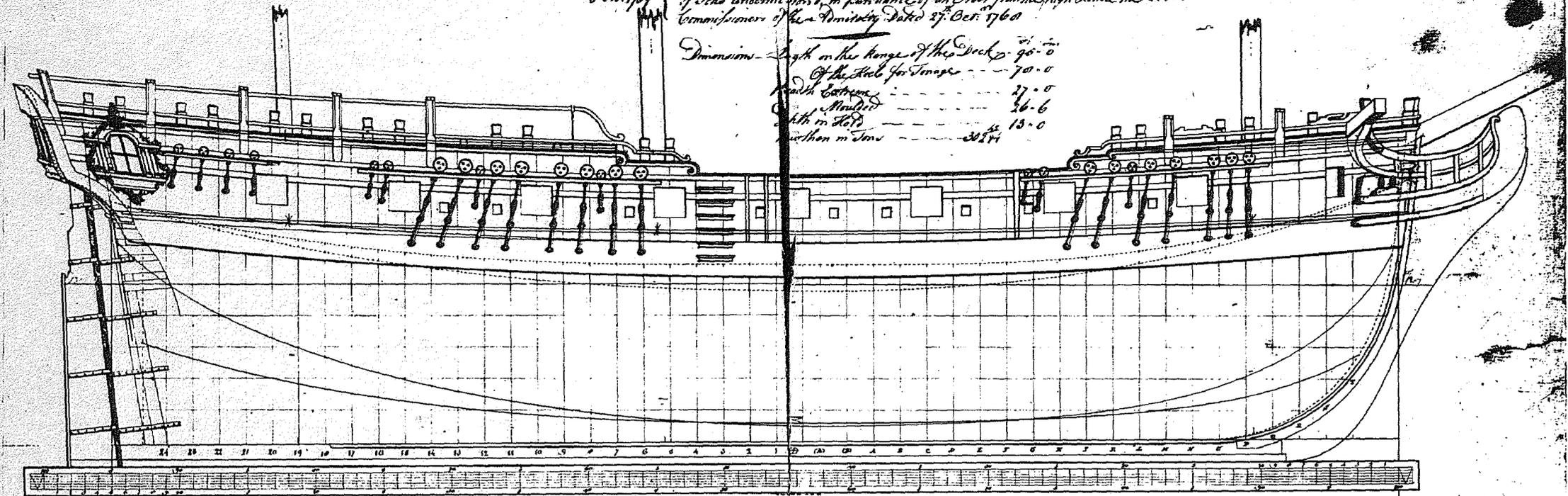
It must give great concern to any Considerate Mind, that, when this whole Continent, at a vast Expense of Blood and Treasure, is endeavouring to Establish Liberties on the most secure and Solid Foundations, not only by a laudable Opposition of Force to Force, but denying itself the usual advantages of Trade; there are men among us so basely sordid as to Counteract all our Exertions, for the sake of a little Gain. You cannot but have heard that the Distresses of the Ministerial Troops, for fresh Provisions and many other Necessaries, at Boston, were very great; It is a Policy, Justifiable by all the Laws of War, to endeavour to increase them; Desertions, Discouragement, and a Dissatisfaction with the Service, besides weakening their strength, are some of the Natural Consequences of such a Situation; and, if continued, might afford the fairest Hope of Success, without

Warrant Office  
25th 1769

A Draught of building in His Majesty's Yard at Portsmouth a Sloop  
to carry 40 Carriage Guns 6<sup>th</sup> and 12 Calibre 8<sup>th</sup> of the Dimensions and Number  
of Guns and Ordnance in pursuance of an Order from His Highness the Lords  
Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury dated 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1760

A Copy of this Draught was sent to  
His Majesty's Yard for building the Sloop  
25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1769

Dimensions - Length on the Range of the Deck 90.0  
Of the Deck for Tonnage 70.0  
Breadth Extreme 27.0  
Moulded 26.6  
Breadth in Hold 15.0  
Breadth in Tonnage 20.4

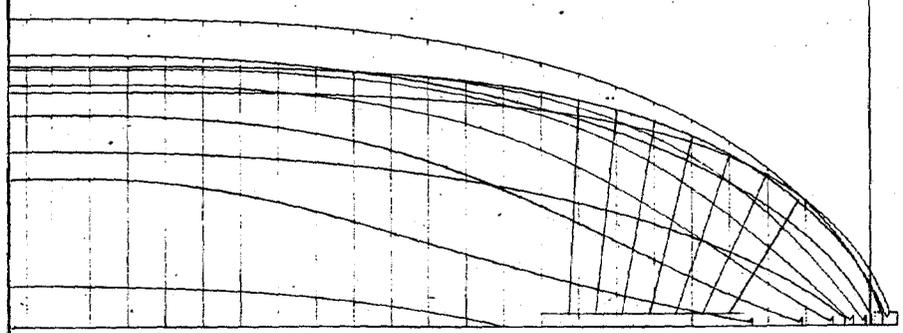


Harbour.  
Cape Horn Harbour  
26 1 Mile

Just and Middle part just four and bloody latter light  
was and clear at 5 M. weighed and came to sail at 8. saw  
top sails to the E. gave chase at noon took a Schooner  
from Hispaniola bound to Salem.

In Cape Horn  
Harbour.

Just and Middle part just Breeze and Hazy latter light  
was with rain at 1 P.M. hoisted out all the Boats to come  
to anchor in Cape Horn Bay off the point of land about  
12. There brought with the Spanish Long boat and 100  
Boat to bring out a Schooner that was to get clear  
at the same time the Master in a small Schooner with the  
Cannon and some People after the Boat's chase & found  
the little fish on the Boat which was taken from the B.  
led from the Ship on the Town for several Hours to  
Release the Boat found it long of safe left off sailing at 2  
M. began to way out of the Harbour.



(Top) Sheer draft of HMS Falcon. (Lower left) HMS Falcon log entries, August 8-9, 1775. (Lower right) Section from the half-breadth plan of HMS Falcon.





Your master returns this morning with the lieutenant of the *Glasgow* & his people. I have nothing further to add but to desire you will continue your wonted vigilance in intercepting the trade of the rebels, & doing them every mischief you can consistent with your powers which I hope soon to enlarge. I am &c

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, Appendix, 472, 473, MassHS Transcript.

JOHN BOURMASTER, AGENT FOR TRANSPORTS, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Empress of Russia*, Boston August the 8th 1775

Having received your Order to hold myself in perfect readiness for proceeding to Sea with the *Empress of Russia* Transport, it becomes incumbent on me to inform your Excellency, that by death and Sickness and the number of her Crew that have entered on board the Kings Ships, She is so reduced in her strength that she cannot be Navigated from Port to Port without assistance. I am therefore to beg that you will be pleased to represent my situation to the Admiral and request him to supply me with Twenty Seamen for the above mentioned Ship.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

John Bourmaster

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND,  
TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence August 8th 1775

Last evening Col. [Elisha] Porter delivered me your Letter of the 4th instant, to which I have paid all the Attention the importance of it demands.

This Colony the last Fall, not confiding entirely in the precarious Supply of Powder that might be expected from the Merchants, imported a considerable Quantity, though not so large as was ordered. The supplying the Inhabitants, who were in a Manner utterly destitute, the Army near Boston, and our armed Vessels have so exhausted this Stock that the Powder not left which is all in this Place, it greatly insufficient to resist even a short Attack upon it. Our Situation is the same with Respect to Lead. So that at present none of either Article can be spared from the Colony.

By a Vessel which arrived here on the 30th Ulto from Cape Francois we are informed that the Captain of the Vessel sent from this port to the Cape for a Quantity of warlike Stores, in which the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Massachusetts had interested themselves, had excuted his Commission and was to sail with a large Quantity in a Day or Two, so that she may be hourly expected. – This Colony about Four Weeks ago despatched a suitable Vessel with money to purchse Fifteen Tons of Powder and other warlike Stores, which may also soon be expected. – Of these Vessels we have the highest reason to think the enemy have gained Intelligence; the Ships of War upon this Station having for

several Days past cruised continually off Block-Island, and from thence to Montauk-Point, and up the Sound. This hath made us think it absolutely necessary to send the smallest of our armed Sloops to cruise without the Ships of War, and endeavour, at all Hazards to speak with the Vessels expected with Powder, and order them to another Port. – She will sail this day. – The other armed Sloop, by her being within the river, prevents the Cutters and Barges from committing Depredations; so that she cannot be spared: Nor indeed is a Vessel of her Force required for the Enterprise you mention. – We have in this Harbor a very fine sailing Packet that would answer the Purpose extremely well; which might be equipped with Swivels, manned with about Twenty Men and be ready to sail in less than Two Days. But as I do not think it prudent that her sole Dependence should be upon getting Powder at Bermuda it will be necessary to send a Sum of Money to purchase a Quantity at some other Port in Case of a Disappointment at Bermuda. In the present State of the Colony I do not think it probable that a sufficient Sum can be procured here for that Purpose before the Sitting of the General Assembly; and therefore advise that Application be made to the General Court of the Massachusetts-Bay to advance part of the sum necessary. I believe we may be able to supply One Half the Sum here. – Col. Porter hath been at Bedford and along the Eastern shore, but can hear nothing of Harris. He is now bound as far as New-London to endeavour to meet with him; but is greatly apprehensive that he is fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.

We have information that several Ships of War and Transports were the Day before Yesterday at New-London; and that the Country round were all arming and mustering. We also hear that they have taken some stock off the east end of Long-Island.

Sensible of the great scarcity of lead in the country, I some time ago wrote to the Congress of the Massachusetts-Bay and to our Delegates at the Continental Congress recommending that a part of the large Quantity of lead at Ticonderoga should be immediately brought down; and still think the Measure necessary.

I shall immediately give Orders to the Committee of Safety to purchase for the Use of the Colony all the Tow-Cloth that can be had.

If the Powder supposed to be at Bermuda be private Property it must be immediately paid for. If not I imagine it will be settled with our own Disputes. This is a matter that ought to be known and provided for. – Upon further Consideration I am very doubtful whether a Vessel can be immediately provided with Men here; and therefore am of opinion that Twenty five or Thirty Sailors had best be draughted from the Army & held in Readiness to embark immediately upon the Arrival of Harris.

This letter waits upon you by my Son, whom I beg Leave to recommend to your favourable Notice.

I am &c.

Nicho Cooke

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"<sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      New London Ct House N N E 2 or 3 Leags  
 Tuesday 8                      4 A M fir'd a Gun & made Sigl to Weigh do weigh'd and came  
    to Sail Co the *Swan* and Transpts 10 A M came too off Plumb  
    Island 4 fm Sandy bottom  
    1 P M Weigh'd and came to Sail Co as before at 4 came too off  
    Gardners Island 5 fm Do Anchd. the fleet at 10 Weigh'd and  
    came to Sail, left the Fleet

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      Gardners Island W B S Distce of [f] Shore 2 or 3 Miles  
 Tuesdy 8th                      [P M] In Company with His Majestys Ship *Rose* and 7 Trans-  
    ports . . . Sent the Boats on Shore, Boats employ'd Getting Cat-  
    tle off For the Transports . . . Seized a Boat with 15 Sheep in from  
    Long Island. Saild from hence His Majestys Ship *Rose*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

COLONEL PHINEAS FANNING TO THE NEW YORK PROVISIONAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Sir—                                      Oyster Ponds, August 8th, 1775, 12 o'Clock, P.M.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock, I received your orders of the 7th instant; agreeably to which I immediately went to the militia to give them orders to be in readiness at a minute's warning, and on my way to the Oyster Ponds I met an express from the committee of the Oyster Ponds to the committee at Southhold, informing them, that this morning, at 10 o'clock, the Ministerial fleet, consisting of thirteen sail of square rigged vessels, of which seven are ships, arrived from the west end of Fisher's island and came to an anchor off Gardiner's island point, where they now lie. At 5 o'clock this afternoon, a small boat, which our people took to be a passage boat, attacked Mr. Rufus Tuthill, who was landing about fifty sheep from Plumb island. He had landed about thirty on the north side of Oyster Pond point, when said boat ran in shore and fired upon Mr Tuthill, drove him from his boat, and immediately took his boat with the remaining twenty sheep and carried them off.

Upon receiving the express, I immediately sent an express to the officers of the militia to repair to Oyster Ponds as quick as possible, as I look upon it they will make a descent upon Oyster Ponds, Gardiner's island, Plumb island, Shelter island, or upon all of them.

I am, Sir [&c.],

Phineas Fanning

P.S. Sir, if any alteration should occur, you may depend on hearing as quick as possible. We are extremely in want of powder.

To P. V. B. Livingston Esqr.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 54, 55.

MINUTES OF THE NORFOLK BOROUGH COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

Norfolk Borough Committee Chamber, August 8, 1775

Whereas, it appears from undoubted testimony, that a certain John Schaw, of this Borough, did, in the presence of Lord Dunmore, officiously point out to the Soldiery at Gosport, one Alexander Main, Fifer in one of the Volunteer Companies of this place, as a person who ought to be apprehended for his impudence (as the said Schaw expressed himself) in wearing a hunting shirt in their presence, in consequence of which the unhappy man was apprehended, and is now, by his Lordship's order, confined on board the *Otter* sloop-of-war; we therefore think it our duty to declare, that the said Schaw has herein shown himself a busy tool, and an enemy to American liberty, and as such, we advise every friend to his Country to have no further dealings or connections with him.

William Davies, Secretary

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 66.JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 8. Turning to the windward with the wind at N.E. squally, with rain: latitude obsd. 31 26.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Portland* at English Harbour 8th Augt. 1775

Since my Arrival at Antigua I wrote You the following Letters, vizt The 10th June by His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*: and the 15th July by the *Eleanor*. (Oswald Master) & the 22d July transmitted a duplicate of the latter: by the *Mermaid*, (French Master) these Letters I hope are come [sa]fe to hand; and that You have Communicated the Contents as requested (to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.) I am now to desire, You will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships: that on the 21st July Arrived in English Harbour, from Dominica, His Majesty's Ship *Hind*, Captain Willm Garnier; who represented to me by Letter, said Ship was very foul; her Sheathing Damaged by Worms, and some Sails, Cables, & Running Rigging much Worn, and unfit for their proper use: I have, therefore, Ordered Her forthwith to be hove down & refitted, and the Stores complained of to be Surveyed.

The 24th July the *Lynx* Sloop being refitted, and reported fit for Sea; I gave her Commander, Orders (a Copy of which are inclosed) to Victual & proceed to Sea &c; and she sailed from hence the 27th July.

The 30th came into English Harbour from a Cruize, his Majesty's Ship *Argo*, Captain Fras Grant Gordon, who delivered me, the Defects of the Kings Ship under his Command of which I have also inclosed a Copy. I immediately Ordered a New Foremast to be prepared for the *Argo*; and such other repairs to be done, as are needful; and when compleated will Order her on Service, to

the more Southern Islands, they being accounted more Secure during the Hurricane Season, than those to the Northward.

The 4th August, arrived here from a Cruize; his Majts Sloop *Pomona*; Captain Henry Bryne; who hath wrote me a Letter (Copy of which I have likewise enclosed for their Lordships information) concerning the Service I had Ordered him on the 10th June last: Captain Bryne also represented to me, the Sloop under His Command was very leaky, and in great want of Caulking.

I therefore have Ordered her upper Works to be Caulked; and her Victualing to be compleated to 4 Months, and then to proceed to the Islands Dominica Barbado's, Tobago, Grenada & St Vincent, her Orders are similar to those given to Captain [Alexander] Scott of the *Lynx* Sloop the 24th July.

I have likewise inclosed, The State and Condition, and Disposition of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under my Command.

I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

9 Aug.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE COMMITTEE OF NORWICH <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Camp at Cambridge Augt 9, 1775

Gentlemen I am directed by his Excellency Genl Washington to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour last evening p Express, & to thank you for your Zeal & Activity in forwarding the Intelligence

As every early Notice had been given of the Sailing of this Fleet & the very Island mentioned which it has Plundered: The General cannot help being some what surprized, that effective Measures had not been taken to remove the Stock. which would not only have sent them back with shame and disappointment, but have encreased their Distress at Boston for fresh Provisions, which was very great before this supply.

The remedy proposed in your Letter would be extreamly difficult in our helpless Condition at Sea, The convoy & immediate relief, to be obtained from Boston would make it a very harzardous Enterprize –

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Jos. Reed Secretary –

On the Service of the United Colonies

G. Washington

To Messrs Chris. Leffingwall & William Hubbard of the Comtee Norwich

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, II, 16, RIHS. A draft in the Washington Papers, LC mistakenly addresses the Committee at New London.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN OF THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA],  
DATED CAMBRIDGE, AUGUST 9, [1775]” <sup>1</sup>

We have an account from the eastward of our people having taken a man of war's tender, and one or two transports. the particulars are difficult to gather or ascertain however seven marine officers are brought prisoners here, and are secured. There is just arrived an account of an engagement between our people

and a man of war at Cape-Ann, wherein our people had the advantage, but no particulars that can be relied on are come to hand.

If any men of war or regular mercenaries should be sent to Philadelphia, I am in hopes my fellow-citizens will give a good account of them. I have pledged myself for their good behaviour.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 23, 1775.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS  
UPON THE EXAMINATION OF EDWARD PARRY <sup>1</sup>

The Committee appointed to examine Mr Edward Parry &c have attended that service, And considering his close connection with, and dependance on persons employed by the Crown – his disposition to supply our enemies with Masts, Plank &c contrary to the known sentiments of this people, and that his being restrained from doing it he considers as Acts of violence the [proof of which] appears under his own hand – beg leave to report as their opinion, that the said Edward Parry be immediately sent to some inland Town which shall be more than seventy miles distant from all the Seaports in this Colony, there to be detained & provided for by the selectmen of such Town untill the farther order of this Council – And if on any pretence what ever he shall presume to leave the Town to which he shall be sent, unless by order as aforesaid, he shall be taken & put under close confinement untill the further order of this Court –

P order

Benj Lincoln

August 9th 1775

[Endorsed] In Council read & accepted. – Sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton Secry pro temp

In the House of Representatives August 12, 1775

Read & concurr'd with the following amendments dele the Words "Some inland Town which shall be more than seventy miles distant from all the Sea Ports" and insert the Town of Sturbridge

Sam<sup>l</sup> Freeman Speaker pro temp.

August 12 1775 In Council read & Concurred

Perez Morton Secry pro temp

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 137, 25, 26.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Watertown Augt 9th 1775

last Evening arrived here a Gentn from Machias with an Acct of their haveing taken two other Tenders. so that they now have five prizes; three Tenders. & two Sloops taken from Jones. 28 Prisoners are on the road. & will be hear this day. among whom is old Ichabod Jones. the rest are Leuts. of Men of War. Midshipmen. & Seamen. five Sloops after wood. & fresh Provisions are taken by [Colonel James] Cargill & others & Carried into Penobscot this is doing great Service. they are reduced to great straits for wood as well as fresh provisions in Boston. it is said it would fetch three Gueneas a Cord. they have already Burnt all the fences &c.

1. *Adams Family Papers*, MassHS.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston August 9th 1775

Sir./ I have the honor to inclose you Copy of a letter I have Just received from Mr [John] Bourmaster, who wants the Men taken from him, to enable him to go to sea; The *Symmetry* being Ordered out. Your Men from her will be returned, and for those in the Scows you will have Marines sent.

I am to Inform you I have Just received dispatches from Nova Scotia, & I inclose you Extracts of a letter from Governor [Francis] Legge, which Appear to be of the Utmost consequence, and likewise extract of Another letter by which you will see, that notwithstanding you have told me Vessels were cruising in the Bay of Fundy, None have Appeared there, and that the Pirates Obstructs every refreshment coming to us, from that Quarter,

I am with the greatest Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 9th August 1775

My Lord, I have the honor to Acknowledge your Lordships letter of the 1st July and am sorry to hear South Carolina is in such Confusion, but Congresses, and Committees seem to have the Rule of every Province. You will have heard of Another Action that happened here on the 17th June, between the Kings Troops, and the Rebels, An Account of which I sent to Lieutenant Governor [William] Bull; not knowing your Lordship was Arrived.

Captain [James] Montague of His Majesty's Sloop *Kings Fisher*, takes this Letter to Virginia, from whence I hope he will be enabled to send it to you: I have received the reinforcements your Lordship Mentions, and much more must be done before Matters will be brought to a Conclusion. I fear a long and Bloody War between Great Britain, and the Colonies, and not unlikely before it finishes some of the Maritime Powers may have possession of some of the Provinces, I wish your Lordship may not at length fall a prey to the Negroes.

I have the Honor to be with great Regard and Esteem, My Lord, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE <sup>1</sup>

My Lord,

Fowey at Boston August the 9th 1775

From the innumerable marks of your Lordships friendships, and your great politeness to me during my most agreeable stay in Virginia, makes me flatter myself a line from one (whose gratitude for these favours, cannot be express'd) will not be disagreeable, which I reflect on the ma[n]y happy days we pass'd under your Lordships very hospitable roof, and the present melancholy objects before our Eyes, we cannot avoid being cast down; to see a town full of wounded Officers and soldiers, without a morsal of fresh Provisions or a likelihood of getting any is a very moving sight. Murmurings and discontents, with (I am sorry to say) great justice prevail Every where; The G----l and Ad----l on bad terms,

the latter universally despis'd, his character prostituted in the basest manner, totally ignorant of the business he is employ'd on; he only turns his mind to find out ways of promoting his Nephews, which if he could, he would have done by breaking me, for sending home [Henry] Collins – On my arrivall he order'd me to give him my reasons in writing for so doing, which I did, and where as I have enclos'd you, but not being satisfactory, he order'd me on board my Ship, refusing to look at my papers I had to show him respecting the Ship, I have not seen him since – he told me I must answer the consequences – which I suppose would be by a Court Martial, if he could bring me under any articles of War, should that be the case, I shall be obliged to trouble your Lordship, as an evidence, but fearing he may have wrote home against me, I am to beg you will write to the Admiralty in my justification. – He urges my not hiring or pressing a Vessel which I say was impracticable, and would have occasioned great delay, which can be proved by you.

I spoke to him about the *Arundell*, he asked me why you did not purchase her, for that service.

I may congratulate your Lordship on the arrival of Lady Dunmore long before this, if the prayers of her friends have prevail'd, she has had a good passage. If your Lordship will do me the honor of presenting my best respects to your family when you write I shall be much oblig'd to you.

Your Letter to the Admiral against Captain [John] Macartny will break him. – He deserves it. Enclosed I send you my answer to the Admiral's letter on that head. My Brother,<sup>2</sup> who will have the honor of presenting your Lordship with this; will tell you what we are doing. begging you to accept my sincere wishes for your health and Happiness, I have the Honor to remain –

My Lord [&c.]

Geo. Montagu.

P.S. Sandys & the other Officers of the *Fowey* beg you to accept their respectful Compliments.

August the 10th I have had a conference with my commander in chief today, the result of which is, that he finding that he cannot hurt me at a Court Martial, is glad to make the matter up, on my giving him my Honor, that my only motive for sending the Schooner [*Magdalen*] home was my zeal for the Service. Notwithstanding I beg your Lordship will write to the Admiralty.

1. *Aspinwall Papers*, (Boston, 1871), Part II, 754-756.

2. Captain James Montagu, of the *Kingsfisher*.

#### VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE<sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Preston at Boston 9th August 1775

I wrote to your Lordship the 28th of July by the Brig *John*, Hugh Kennedy Master, and am now to acknowledge the Honor of your Letter July 20th. I am entirely of your Lordships Opinion that the Ships stationed at Virginia cannot prevent the Rebels receiving supplies of Ammunition and Smuggled Goods; there is no Station that has a number of Ships and Vessels equal to that duty, and this deficiency can only be supplied from England, from whence we are in hourly Expectation of the most interesting Accounts and of considerable Reinforcements.

As these cannot I think be far off your Lordship may rely upon seeing as many Vessels arrive within your Excellency's Government as can be appropriated to it.

I cannot order Captain Montagu's Tender to be purchased, but if she is a swift Sailing Vessel would recommend her to the Captains on the Stations who certainly can make it answer to them, as Ten p.Cent is allowed to the Proprietors out of all Seizures over and above their shares.

I am My Lord [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. *Aspinwall Papers*, Part II, 753, 754.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,  
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT <sup>1</sup>

Sr

Oyster Pond August 9th 1775 –

I have just time to acquaint your Honour, that by the request of the Provincial Congress of New York I yesterday embarked from New York with four hundred and fifty men, and this afternoon arrived here, We find that the Inhabitants are in great need of powder – There is none in New York, I spared two Hundred weight from my own Stock which was forwarded from New York to this place for the use of the York Provincials who were stationed here, of consequence our Stock is reduced to about twenty rounds a man –

The Regulars have taken the Cattle Sheep &c from Fishers Island & this day have employed themselves in the same business on Gardner's Island, when they have got through with that we may expect them upon this – I beg that your honour would with the greatest expedition possible forward to me, three hundred weight of powder, which I hope will be sufficient for the present exigency both for our own Troops and the Militia here, I am Sr in great haste [&c.]

Dav<sup>d</sup> Wooster.

1. HM 8151, HUL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A.M. August 9th, 1775.

The mayor and some other of the magistrates attending at the door, informed one of the members that Capt. [George] Vandeput, of His Majesty's ship *Asia*, had requested to know whether he will receive a boat in lieu of that lately destroyed.

Ordered, That the mayor and magistrates be informed that it is the sense of this Congress that a new boat be built for the use of His Majesty's ship *Asia*.

Thereupon the Congress entered into a Resolution in the words following, to wit:

WHEREAS the barge ordered to built to replace the one belonging to His Majesty's ship *Asia*, lately destroyed, was, when lately finished, sawed to pieces in the night by some disorderly persons:

*Resolved*, That the mayor and magistrates of this city be requested to procure another barge to be built in this city for the purpose aforesaid; and all persons are

strictly enjoined not to obstruct the building the said barge, or the delivery thereof to the Commander of His Majesty's said ship, as those who shall give any obstruction thereto will be considered and treated as enemies to their country.

Ordered, That the same be published in the newspapers.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 104, 105.

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, NORFOLK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1775

Norfolk, August 9.

It is with concern we mention the heats and jealousies that have arisen in this place, from some imprudencies that have been committed, and from the unlucky incidents that frequently happen in the neighbourhood of an armed force. The repetition of little occurrences of this nature generally serve for no other purpose than to inflame. It is however some little consolation to us, exposed as we are, with the rest of our country, to the unhappy designs of a certain person and his tools, that we can with so much justice pay the full tribute of respect to the uninterrupted tenour of capt. [John] Macartney's conduct, so exemplary for humanity, benevolence, and the first preservation of order and discipline.

The fifer<sup>1</sup> that was confined on board the *Otter* was last night released after undergoing a strict examination by Lord Dunmore

1. Alexander Main. See August 8, 1775.

NEIL JAMIESON TO ROBERT DONALD<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Norfolk Augt 9 1775

Mr Emanl Walker wants Room for one hundred hhds Tobo I agree for Accot of the said Walker, to deliver you along side the Brigne *Kitty* Archd white Master, one hundred hhds Tobo to be delivered along side on or before the first of Septr for which you are to be alwed freight at the Rate of Thirty five Shillings Sterling P hhd. to be paid in three months After the safe delivery of the same, at the Ports of Greenock in Port Glasgow. the Tobocoës to be put along side of the said Brigne *Kitty* at Norfolk at the expence & risque of the Shiper, as also to pay at the rate of Two Shillings P hhd Sterling for import and two thirds port Charges, in proportion for the quantity Shipt if these Terms are agreeable Signify the same & it will be binding on both parties I am Sir [&c.]

Neil Jamieson

[Endorsed]

Sir I accept of your offer as above made.

Yours &c

Robert Donald

[On verso]

Agreement with R Donald for Eml Walker for fr 100. hds Tobo

1. Neil Jamieson Papers, vol. 20, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

Wednesday, Aug. 9th, 1775.

Whereas, the late Continental Congress, in the fourth article of their Association for themselves and their constituents, agreed that the earnest desire they had, not to injure their fellow subjects in Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies, induced them to suspend a non-exportation, until the 10th day of September, 1775; at which time, if the said acts and parts of acts of the British Parliament thereafter mentioned, should not be repealed; they would not directly or indirectly export any any commodity whatsoever, to Great Britain, Ireland or the West Indies, except rice to Europe. And, whereas, information hath been made to the committee, that several merchants and traders, in the town of Wilmington, understand the said article, in this sense, that is to say, that if any ship or vessel should, before the said 10th day of Sept., begin to load, time and liberty would be allowed to complete the loading, at any time, however extended, after the said 10th day of September, which would be a flagrant infraction of the said Association.

*Resolved*, therefore, That no ship or vessel, on any pretence whatever, shall take on board any merchandises or commodities from and after the 10th day of September next; nor shall any person or persons presume to ship any goods, wares, or merchandises, on board of any ship or vessel, from and after the said 10th day of September, on pain of the displeasure of the public.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 151.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 9. Fresh gales at N.E. plying to windward with all sail set, and a growing sea. Lat obsd. 31 50.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

**10 Aug.**JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>August 1775  
Thursday 10th

Aground in Lake St Francis  
at ½ past 4 A M Weigh'd and Came to Sail, Cross'd the Flatts  
at 5 bore away at 7 Do passed Le trois Rivieres at ½ past 11  
Struck on the Shoal of Batteau aller St Francis fired a Gun  
and got a Sloop alongside Do put two, three Pounders into  
her and all our Swivel's, carryed out the Kedge and tryed to  
heave her off; after starting all our water found there was no  
possibility, got the Guns on board again and sent an Officer

up to Sorrel in Order to bring down some of His Majesty's  
 Armed Schooners to our assistance when we struck St Peters  
 Point Bore W S W 3 Miles  
 Fresh Gales and hazey with Rain at 12 P M Arrived one of  
 the Armed Schooners from Sorrel

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

LIEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Cambridge 10th Augt 1775

Sir, I am sorry to acquaint you, that on the 15th Ultimo, I, with the Surgeon  
 & a Boats Crew, was detain'd on Shore at Machias, and the next Day His Majts  
 Schooner *Diligent*, and *Tatamagouche* Shallop was seized by the Inhabitants;  
 The particulars of which I will communicate when I have the honor of seeing  
 you – Mr Stillingfleet accompanied me hither, there is likewise a Seaman & a  
 Marine belonging to the *Preston* on the Road with the Co of the *Diligent*

I am &c

Jn<sup>o</sup> Knight

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 15h, LC Transcript.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT  
 OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge Augt 10: 1775

We have had no Occurrence in the Camp for Several Days worthy of Notice:  
 But by some Advices from Boston & several concurring Circumstances we have  
 great Reason to Suspect a Part or the whole of the ministerial Troops are about  
 to remove: New York is the Place generally talk'd of as their Destination:—I  
 give you the Intelligence as it came to me, but do not vouch for it's Authenticity –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1775

Cambridge, August 10.

Our People have taken two or three of the Enemy's Vessels at Machias, at  
 the Eastward, with a Number of Prisoners, among whom is Ichabod Jones, a well  
 known Tory, who was brought to Town Yesterday, and put into Custody of the  
 Main Guard. The other Prisoners, we are informed, are on the Road, and may  
 be hourly expected.

We hear from Cape-Ann, that a Vessel bound in there from the West  
 Indies, being discovered off that Harbour last Tuesday, several of the Inhabitants  
 went off in a Boat to assist in bringing her in. Soon after, about 30 armed Men,  
 from the Man of War commanded by Capt. [John] Lindzee,<sup>1</sup> boarded and took  
 Possession of the Vessel; but she running aground on the Cape, was vigorously  
 attacked by a Number of Men from the Town of Gloucester, who soon obliged the  
 Enemy to give up the Vessel to the proper Owners, and to surrender themselves  
 Prisoners. The whole Number was immediately sent to Ipswich Goal, in which  
 24 of them were confined. The Rest (4 or 5 in Number) were discharged, it

appearing that they had been cruelly forced into the Enemy's Service. Lindzee was so enraged that he fired several Cannon Shot into the Town of Gloucester, but did little Damage.

The Information given us (and inserted in our last) respecting the Expedition to the Light-House, we have been since told, was rather imperfect. Maj. [Benjamin] Tupper commanded the Troops, consisting of 250. They found on the Island 53 Persons, 33 of them Marines, of whom a Lieutenant and two Privates, with three Tories were killed on the Spot. Five of the Marines, and several of the Tories, were wounded, among whom was the notorious Capt. White of Marshfield. The whole Number, besides the killed, were made Prisoners, one of whom was the Master Carpenter from New York.

1. H.M. Sloop *Falcon*.

### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, August 10, 1775

Colonel Prescott brought down a number of Letters found on board the vessels taken at Machias, which were committed for revision to Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Partridge, and Mr. Crane.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Speaker, Colonel Freeman and Major Hawley, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a committee to confer with his Excellency General Washington on the subject of a number of Letters brought from Machias.<sup>2</sup>

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 320, 321, from Mass. Arch.
2. See Washington's letter of August 11 to the committee.

### NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 10 [August 1775]

The *Somerset*, notwithstanding all that had been done to her, continuing to make as much Water as usual in the Harbour, it became absolutely necessary to have her hoven down at Halifax; wherefore the Admiral now gave Orders accordingly, and wrote Letters by her to Governor [Francis] Legge, and Mr Morden the Storekeeper. Our Supplies also from the Contractors Agent failing at Boston, Halifax and Rhode Island, the Admiral put under the *Somerset's* Convoy one of the Victuallers (the *Fortitude*) and ordered Captain LeCras from her to compleat the Ships at Halifax with such Species of Provisions as the Contractor there could not furnish.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 169, MassHS Transcript.

### VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LECRAS, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Whereas from the evil disposition towards his Majestys Government unfortunately spread throughout the Country, and from the more dangerous and wicked designs of those in actual Rebellion, there is every reason to apprehend his Majesty's Yard and Naval and Ordnance Stores at Halifax to be in great danger of being destroyed, And whereas I have since the middle of last April

kept his Majesty's Ship *Tartar* at Halifax entirely for its Security; you are hereby required and directed upon your arrival to take such measures for the preservation of the said Arsenal from Accident of Fire, or from any Attempts of the Rebels, as you shall think proper, and your situation and force will allow you to use. And whereas I am informed that the Ordnance Stores as well for the Army as the Navy are deposited entirely out of the Protection of the Kings Ships, and that a very small Force may remove them without hindrance from the Men of War. You are to report to me as soon as possible your opinion thereon, and upon the manner his Majesty's Yard is defended or secured at those places where the Kings Ships cannot act; and whether the removal of all or part of the Ordnance Stores to George's Island will not put them out of Danger from the Rebels. Reporting to me in general your opinion concerning the Security of his Majesty's Yard and the Stores in both Departments, and what means are proper to be used to secure the whole from open or secret Attempts of the Enemy by Sea or Land.

Given under my Hand on Board his Majts Ship *Preston* at Boston the 10 August 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 169, 170, MassHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Nantasket Road August 10 1775

I beg leave to inform you that on the 8th inst cruising off Cape Anne in his Majesty's Sloop under my Command I discovered two Schooners under Sail standing in for the Shore. I made Sail after them and very soon came up with the Sternmost and detained her; the other got into Cape Anne Harbour whither I followed. On my anchoring the same day I sent Lieutt Thornborough with the Pinnace Long boat and Jolly Boat manned and armed in order to bring the Schooner out; the Master coming in from Sea at the same time in a small Tender, I directed him to go and assist the Lieutt. When the Boats had passed the Point of Rocks that was between the Ship and Schooner; they received a very heavy fire from the Rebels who were hidden behind Rocks and Houses and behind Schooners aground at Wharfs, but notwithstanding the Heavy fire from the Rebels, Lieutt Thornborough boarded the Schooner and was himself and three men wounded from the Shore. On the Rebels firing on the Boats I fired from the Ship into the Town to draw the Rebels from the Boats. I very soon observed the Rebels paid very little Attention to the firing from the Ship, and seeing their Fire continued very heavy in the Schooner, the Lieutt had boarded, I made an Attempt to set fire to the Town of Cape Anne and had I succeeded I flatter myself would have given the Lieutt an Opportunity of bringing the Schooner off, or have left her by the Boats, as the Rebels Attention must have been to the fire. But an American, part of my Complement, who had always been very active in our cause, set fire to the Powder before it was properly placed; Our attempt to fire the Town therefore not only failed but one of the men was blown up, and the American deserted. A second Attempt was made to set fire to the Town, but did not succeed. The Rebels coming to the Fort obliged the four men to leave it. I then began a second time to fire on the Town but the Houses being built

of Wood could do no great Damage. About four o'Clock in the Afternoon the Lieutt was brought on board under Cover of the Masters fire from the Schooner who could not leave her. All the Boats are much damaged by Shot; and lay on the side of the Schooner next the Rebels. On my being made acquainted with the Situation of the Master I sent the Prize Schooner to anchor ahead of the Schooner the Master was in, and veer along side to take him and people away, who were much exposed to the Rebels fire; but for want of an Officer to send in her it was not performed, the Vessel not anchored properly; And as, I apprehend, the Master could not see any Prospect of being assisted, and a heavy fire from the Rebels, and numbers coming to their Assistance, delivered himself up about 7 in the Evening with the Gunner, fifteen Seamen, seven Marines, one Boy and ten prest Americans. The Schooner I sent in to assist the Master on his going ashore, ran in and was retaken by the Rebels. I am inclined to think the Company of the Schooner had been hid and took that opportunity of retaking the Vessel that was sent to assist the Master. After the Master was landed I found I could not do him any good, or distress the Rebels by firing. I therefore left off. On this Occasion the Rebels took the Pinnace Jolly Boat three Swivels some small Arms and two small Anchors with one hawser that was to warp the Schooner out by. I remained at Anchor till the following Morning and then warped out in order to proceed to this place.

I am &c

John Linzee

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 473-475, MassHS Transcript. Another copy in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES<sup>1</sup>

[Newport] 1775 Aug 10.

Yesterday the Men o' War being absent from this Harbour on a plundering Cruise, one of the Providence Privateers armed by Governmt (of this Colony) came and took of[f] the residue of the Cannon from our Fort part[in]g 2 large 18 Pounders and carried them up to Providence, a little below which they are Fortifying. Last Decr. the most of the Cannon were removed. Several Transports coming round from Bo[ston] for Provisions, The Men o'War on this Station went out with them to Long Isld and Fishers Isld to get Stock, they took about 1130 Sheep and Thirty Head of Cattle from Fishers Isld. The *Rose* returned here the last eve[nin]g.

1. Stiles, III, 55, LC.

SILAS DEANE, CONNECTICUT DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS,  
TO DR. BENJAMIN GALE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Wethersfield, Aug. 10th, 1775

The Congress as you have heard make but a short recess; before the expiration of which, pray favor me with a line, and say what ground is there for the report of a certain new invention for destroying Ships. You are in the neighborhood, and therefore presume you can give me the particulars.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society, Collections*, II, 294.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-LONDON, AUGUST 10. [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

Last Sunday morning [August 6] about six o'clock, we discovered nine sail of ships, one brig, one snow, one schooner, and two sloops, turning up to this harbour, with the wind at N.E. which alarmed the inhabitants of this town, but we soon found their design was to take the stock off Fisher's Island, which they accomplished on that day, consisting of 1130 sheep, 40 cattle, and 10 hogs. . . .

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Postscript, August 21, 1775.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1775

New York, Aug. 10.

Last night an express arrived from Cambridge, which, it is said, brings advice that General Pribble<sup>1</sup> had brought an account that six transports employed at Casco-Bay to procure forage and provisions for General Gage's army, had been surprized by 300 of the provincials in whale boats; five out of six of them were taken and secured in shoal water. Most of the men belonging to the transports were foraging ashore when the attack was made.

1. Jedediah Preble, representing Cumberland County in the Massachusetts General Court.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 10th [1775]

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to procure Gunpowder, &c., do, as soon as possible, import Fifty tons of Lead.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 301.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, AUG. 10 [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

The following is the condition of the Royal Governors in America: [William] Tryon quiet on Long Island; [William] Franklin silent at Ambay; [Robert] Edin at Annapolis, a tame spectator of a spirit and virtue he thought had long deserted Englishmen; [John Murray] Dunmore, through fear of punishment, on board the *Fowey* man of war; his wife and family gone to England; [Josiah] Martin has sent his wife and children to New York, and is himself in Fort Johnson; and Lord William Campbell in the horrors at Charlestown.

Guy Johnson, Superintendent of Indian affairs, fled to Oswego, and all the Tories gone to England, Canada or Halifax for protection.

1. *London Chronicle*, September 30 to October 3, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 10. Light breezes of wind, set squaresail and topsail, and made Tybee Tower; and we steered in at it, through Skull Creek, and came to in Port Royal Creek. Lat. ob. 31 50. Got under sail, and at 10 A.M.

came to at Port Royal; and dispatched away an Express to Charlestown, and at 3 P.M. we landed the powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

## 11 August

### JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      Moor'd at Montreal  
Fridy 11th                      at 4 A M Carried out the Bt Br to the Eastward, the Schooner came alongside, put our Guns and Provisions on board her at 8 Hove off into the Channell in 3 fms Weigh'd the Kedge,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Weigh'd & Came to Sail –  
Fresh Breezes wt Rain at 1 P M enter'd the Channel of Hat Island at 5 got thro' the Channel at 7 entered the Rapids at 9 Came to wt the Bt Br in 4 fms Veer'd to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a Cable, at 10 Carried out the Kedge Anchor to Steady her – The Citadell of Montreal N W Dist  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile St Helen's Island S E B S 1 Mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

### THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL, TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Portsmo, N.H. August 11th, 1775.

Sr Immediately after I received your Excellencys Letter of Yesterdays date (which was about 10 o'Clock this Morn) relative to the Inhabitants of this Town firing on Capt [Andrew] Barkley's Boat I sumoned the Council to meet at 12, but did not make a Quorum till this afternoon when the Council was Truly Informed that a Town Meeting was Immedately Notified & a very full Meeting of the Inhabitants appeared & regularly & Deliberately Pass'd a Vote with a large & uncommon Majority in which they disapproved the Transaction &c. your Excellency herewith hath the vote of the Meeting attested, and also the minute of Council.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 388; *ibid.*, XVIII, 672, 673.

### BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO JAMES OTIS, PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Head Quarters 11th Augt 1775: –

By Order of The Commander in Chief I send to wait your Orders, an Officers Party to Escort Seventeen Seamen taken Prisoners at Machias, and One Tory, Ichabod Jones; thirty Prisoners more taken at Cape Ann, will be at Watertown to day. I believe you will think it best to Detain this party at Watertown, until that [from] Cape Ann Arrives, when they may have your Orders to what

Town they are to March to be confin'd. I have already sent a Number of Prisoners to Springfield & Torys to Worcester. perhaps you may approve of placing these at Northampton, as there are so many at present at Springfield. I am, Sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates Adjut Genl

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 128.

"LIST OF PRISONERS TAKEN AT CAPE ANN, BELONGING TO THE *Falcon* SLOOP OF WAR"<sup>1</sup>

[August 11, 1775]

Robert Arnold, Master	Michael Flynn since
Wm Robert Broton, Midshipman	Sick and Remaining in Ipswich
Philabeth Demett, Midshipman	Goal -
Justin Budd - Gunner	Samuel Burd - impress'd
John Backster - Doctr's Servant	John Doyl - Sailor
Hugh Hughes - Marine	Mathew Cornish - Marine
Thomas Nash - Do	John Clark - Cook's Mate
Jonathan Ellis - Do	Wounded -
Abraham Elliot - Do	John Warrick Quarter Master
Gyles Jones - Do	Joseph Murray - Quarter Gunner
John Mechum - Do	Killed
William Allen - Steward	John Molloy - formerly of Salem
William Rickets - Capt of Forecastle	Taken - belonging formerly to Cape
Hugh Jones - Sail Maker	Ann - and are now there -
Michael Love - Sailor	Duncan Piper
Thomas Taylor - Gunner Yeoman	William Putam
William Mackey, Quarter Master	George Rigg
John McRady impress'd - released	Jno Cleaveland

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO A COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, Augt 11. 1775

I have considered the Papers you left with me Yesterday; those of them which relate to [Ichabod] Jones shew him to be a malignant & inveterate Enemy to his Country and I trust he will meet with his Deserts; but I have such various & important Matters requiring my constant Attention that I must beg Leave to refer him and all others under Similar Circumstances to the Authority of the Province for punishment & safe Custody . . . As to the Expedition proposed against Nova Scotia by the Inhabitants of Machias, I cannot but Applaud their Spirit and Zeal, but after considering the Reasons offer'd for it, there are Several Objections occur which seem to me unanswerable. I apprehend Such an Enterprize inconsistent with the General Principle upon which the Colonies have

proceeded That Province has not acceded, it is true, to the Measures of Congress; & therefore they have been excluded from all Commercial Intercourse with the other Colonies; But they have not commenc'd Hostilities against them, nor are any to be apprehended – To attack *them* therefore is a Measure of Conquest rather than Defence, & may be attended with very Dangerous Consequences – It might perhaps be easy with the Force propos'd to make an Excursion into the Province & overawe those of the Inhabitants who are Inimical to our Cause & for a short time prevent the Supplying the Enemy with Provisions – but the Same Force must Continue to produce any lasting Effects – As to the furnishing Vessells of Force; You Gentlemen will Anticipate me in pointing out our Weakness & the Enemy's Strength at Sea – There wou'd be great Danger that with the best Preparation we could make, they would fall an easy Prey either to the Men of War on that Station or Some who would be Detach'd from Boston – I have been thus particular to Satisfy any Gentlemen of the Court who should incline to adopt the Measure: I could offer many other Reasons against it, some of which I doubt not will suggest themselves to the Hon: Board – But it is unnecessary to enumerate them when our Situation as to Amunition absolutely forbids our Sending a Single Ounce out of the Camp at present –

I am Gent &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOSEPH PALMER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Honbl Governor [Nicholas] Cooke's Letter of the 8th Instt, & to his Excellency, Genl Washington's Message of yesterday by Colo [Joseph] Read, beg leave to report by way of Letter to Genl Washington

In Council August 11th 1775 –

May it please your Excellency –

We have taken into consideration the Honbl Governor Cooke's Letter, which your Excellency furnished us with; & by the Honbl John Adams Esqr from the American Congress, we are informed that the Powder mentioned, has been sent for, and is, probably, now on the Water; and Provisions are allowed to be exported, in pay for that Article –

And as to the Prisoners, we would recommend to Your Excellency, that such of 'em as are of least importance, may be received in the Jails of Ipswich & Taunton; but there is a certain Ichabod Jones, & some Officers, which, we think, had better be sent to Northampton Jail, or other inland place of Security: And we doubt not your Excellency's care to prevent such Prisoners being exchanged, or may be eminently serviceable to our Enemies – And as to the Contracts, made by the Committee of Supplies, we see not how, in honour, they can be vacated, without the Consent of both parties; but if

in this, or any thing else, we can assist your Excellency, to promote the General Service, You may be assured, that we shall chearfully meet your warmest Wishes—

J Palmer Chairman

[Endorsed] Augt 11th 1775 In Council read & accepted & ordered to be forwarded to his Excy

Perez Morton Secry pro temp.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 19.

FALMOUTH COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Honourable the Council and House of Representatives for the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, now sitting at Watertown.

The Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth humbly sheweth: That on information that the brig *Sally*, from the West Indies, laden with Sugar and Molasses, commanded by Captain Edward Grisbym and owned by Mr. Joseph Sherburne, suspected to be for the British Army now in Boston, we thought fit to send for the Captain, and find by him he has orders to proceed with said Brig and Cargo to Swanzey, to Colonel Bowers's wharf, for which reason we thought fit to stop said Brig and Cargo, supposing it impossible for them to proceed to Swanzey with Safety, and have ordered her to be detained at Falmouth until your Honours shall give orders how said Brig shall be proceeded with, &c. We, your petitioners, therefore pray your Honours to take the affair under your consideration and order, as you in wisdom shall see fit. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Grannis Nathaniel Shiverick

Clerks for Committee of Correspondence

Falmouth, August 11, 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194. See Mass. House of Rep., Aug. 16, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LEGRAS, R.N., H.M.S. *Somerset* <sup>1</sup>

Whereas there is certain information that the Rebels have 5 or 6 Sail of large Schooners and Sloops armed and full of men, cruising in and about the Bay of Fundy to intercept Vessels bringing fresh Provisions, Hay and Fuel to Boston, of which the Garrison is in the greatest Want, the Lives of a very considerable Number depending upon speedily receiving fresh Meat; and whereas his Majesty's Schooners *St Lawrence* and *Hope* sailed the 19th of last month to convoy the Transports as pr Margin to Annapolis Royal, with Orders to bring from Windsor in the Bay of Fundy Six or more vessels laden with Cattle for this Garrison, and his Majesty's Sloop *Senegal* being likewise in Penobscot Bay with four Transports and three Sloops endeavouring to procure fuel; and whereas every precaution ought to be taken to prevent disgrace to his Majesty's Arms and to secure the Supplies we are in such need of from any pyratival Attempts of the Rebels: You are

hereby required and directed, as soon after your arrival as possible, to apply to Governor [Francis] Legge for such Information respecting the Rebel Pyrates as his Excellency can give, and having informed yourself from Captain [Edward] Medows, or by any other means you think proper of the situation of his Majesty's Affairs in the Province of Nova Scotia, particularly with respect to the Rebels Designs on any Magazine, Forts, Towns or Shipping, and of the number and force of the Pyrates said to be at Sea and their cruizing Stations, You are to order Capt. Medows to range along the Coast of Nova Scotia, and to go into the Bay of Fundy as high as Annapolis Royal where I would have him anchor, and inform himself if any Vessels are in the Harbours near him, waiting for Convoy or nearly ready to depart for Boston, to assist in gathering them together and to take them all under his Convoy and proceed with them to Boston. In case there shall be no Vessels bound this way with supplies of any kind for this Garrison or Fleet, you are to order Captain Medows to visit as many of the Harbours along the Coast on his way to Boston as he can; My Intention being for the *Tartar* to collect if possible all the trading Vessels bound here, and to protect and convoy them hither without delay. And you are also required and directed to give Captain Medows, and all other Captains and Commanders you may meet, Orders to take, burn, sink and destroy, all and every Pirate and Rebel wherever they can be found, and every Vessel or Person who shall be actually aiding and assisting such Pirate or Rebel; And also to order that all Vessels belonging to the four New England Governments armed, or appointed otherwise than the Wood Coasters and Traders formerly were, are to be deemed Pyrates and treated accordingly.

You are also to order Captain Medows in case of his meeting his Majesty's Schooners aforesaid, or the *Senegal*, to give their Commanders such assistance and Orders as the Kings Service may require; Observing upon the whole that the bringing Supplies of Cattle, Fuel and Hay to Boston must, be accelerated by all means in our power. And whereas the good of the Kings Service may require that other Directions and Orders may be given as well with respect to the foregoing Duties, as what may happen during your Stay at Halifax, you are in the above and all other Cases, that will not admit of waiting for my Orders, to give such Directions as the Exigencies of the Case may require and you shall think most advantageous to his Majesty's Interest.

You are upon the arrival of the Store Ship from England, to cause some of your Ships Company to assist in taking out such part of the Stores as yourself and the Naval Officer shall think best to remain in the Yard, and to secure and arrange them in proper order, And you are also to afford the Officers of the Yard all other necessary and proper Assistance for his Majesty's Service; but you are not to interfere in their respective departments except to see that due Obedience is paid to mine and the Navy Boards Orders.

You are heartily to co-operate with Governor Legge and assist him in all things for his Majesty's Service to the best of your Judgement.

Given under my Hand on board his Majts Ship *Preston* at Boston the  
11 August 1775

Sam Graves

[Transports mentioned in the Margin]

*Three Sisters*  
*Ocean*  
*Eagle*  
*Brilliant*  
*Diana*

Sloops  
*Britania*  
*Sarah*  
*Polly*

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 171-174, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Preston Boston 11th August 1775

I thank your Excellency for the Honor of your Letter July 21 inclosing the Deposition of Phineas Lovett also for your Letter July 27, both which I received from Lieutt [Henry] Mowat the day before yesterday. I am satisfied as well from the Circumstances mentioned in your Dispatch, as from Information procured here, that the Rebels are meditating some mischief to Halifax and other parts in your Excellency's Government; And we have no Doubt that they will endeavour to interrupt the Navigation to and from the Bay of Fundy. The *St. Lawrence* and *Hope* armed Schooners sailed from Boston the 20th of last month to convoy two Transports going for Hay to Annapolis [Royal], their Commanders have positive Orders to search for Pirates and to destroy them. They are to call at Mechais and to go as high as Windsor, if possible, to collect the Provision Vessels and bring them hither. The *Senegal* is with four Transports in Penobscot Bay and will attend them farther to the Eastward if necessary. And I have now ordered the *Scarborough* to cruize in the Station your Excellency recommended, which is certainly the best to secure the Navigation of the Bay and adjacent Coast, and for intercepting Pirates. If they can be once shut out from the Bay, our Cruizers will reduce them to the necessity of fighting, or of skulking where they cannot annoy Vessels passing; And I hope we shall soon give perfect Security to all legal Traders.

I have not heard before of the Vessels at Pemaquid, but the Rebels will no Doubt get as many fitted out as they can, and it must be our business to destroy them.

In my opinion there is very little dependence on the Natives in any of the Provinces, who are running blindfold into the worst of governments, and are at present so intoxicated with Notions of Deliverance as they call it from Slavery, and so perfectly submissive and obedient to the Commands of their Congress, that we must expect every Consequence of such Infatuation. Capt. [Edward] LeCras while he stays at Halifax has full Power from me to assist your Excellency, and in general to take such steps for the immediate protection and security of every thing belonging to his Majesty as his Situation and Force will allow. And if your Excellency thinks it right to send Cannon and Ammunition to Annapolis, he will order Captain [Edward] Medows to convey it there.

Your Excellency may be assured that I shall do the utmost in my power at all times for the publick good, and receive with pleasure every Intelligence your Excellency can send me for that purpose. I am &c

Sam Graves

P S. I beg leave to offer my opinion to your Excellency not to send Cannon or Ammunition, except where there is a sufficient Number of Regulars in Garrison.

S. G.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 475-477, MassHS Transcript.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FRACAS BETWEEN VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES AND BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOM COMMISSIONERS <sup>1</sup>

The affair happened on the 12th [sic 11th] of August [1775] . . . The Admiral was going to the General's, when Mr. H-----ll made after and overtook him, and insisted upon an answer to some letters, but the Admiral said he would never answer them; Mr. H-----ll repeated his demands several times, and the Admiral always made the same reply: then says Mr. H-----ll, *you are no Gentleman but a Scoundrel* upon which the Admiral hitting him a very slight slap in the face, drew his sword, and Mr. H-----ll cried out, *what draw a sword upon a naked man, give me a stick, a stone*, and made a noise to bring people round him. The Admiral immediately returned his sword to the scabbard, and walked on slowly towards the General's; but Mr. H-----ll picked up a stone, followed him again, and called out to speak to him, upon which the Admiral stopped to let him do so, imagining probably he meant to challenge him, when Mr. H-----ll coming close up, in a low whispering voice said, *you are a damned scoundrel*, whereupon the Admiral struck with his fist with great resentment, cutting him across the nose with his knuckles so as to make the blood trickle, and a scuffle ensued. The mob, which had collected very fast, now pressed in and squeezed upon both, which gave an opportunity to Mr. H-----ll to take away the Admiral's sword, but a soldier perceiving this, caught hold of the sword, and in the struggle between them it was broke. I can't suppose, as some of the spectators fancied, that Mr. H-----ll meant in his passion to stab the Admiral, but it looked to me if it had not been for the mob, the Admiral, although he must be near 60, would have drubbed Mr. H-----ll confoundedly, notwithstanding he is a stout young man of 34 or 35 years of age; as it was, he was blind for a week as they told me. By Mr H-----ll's coming without a sword, it seemed plain that he designed to make a mobbish affair of it, and in such circumstances I do not see how the Admiral could act otherwise than he did. The true cause, or merits of the altercation I know nothing of myself, but it was reported that Mr. H-----ll had long bore a grudge to the Admiral for bringing a relation (a Captain of a man of war) to a court martial for disobedience of orders; although the immediate pretence for this attack I understood to arise from the Admiral's not granting Mr. H-----ll a pass for some men to go down the harbour to cut hay on Gallops island; the Admiral's friends gave out that he did not think it just or equal for any one man to engross

(in a time of such scarcity) so much hay to himself, that the brother-in-law of Mr. H-----ll commanded the man of war then near Gallop's island, that the army was in great want of provender for their horses there being 17 or 18 marines employed to cut grass for them, the ships generally weak in hands, and information received of 170 whaleboats having been drawn over a narrow neck of land with intent to burn and plunder the islands; besides which, Mr. H-----ll's requests and letters were so improper, and in such gross and indecent terms, as to be entitled to no answer. I pretend however to form no judgment of the matter, and am a stranger to both parties. Mr. H-----ll is a native of Boston, the son of a Carpenter, bred to the sea, much liked in the town, universally known to the navy and people, and bears a good character: the Admiral is counted by the fleet a good seaman and brave, and is very active, but somewhat severe, of few words, and rough in his manner.

1. This account is contained in a letter from Portsmouth, England, to *London Chronicle*, written by a gentleman who stated, "I came home from Boston in the transport lately arrived, and have since been shewn an article in a news-paper giving so unjustifiable an account of the scuffle in the streets between Admiral Greaves and Commissioner Holowell, that I think it a piece of justice to the public to relate what really passed, being by accident an eye and ear witness." The letter, dated Oct. 24, 1775, appeared in the *Chronicle* in the Postscript of its issue of Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 1775.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO  
GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence August 11th 1775

Sir, Since my last to you Mr [Samuel] Ward One of the Delegates hath returned from the Congress. He informs me that some of the Bermudians have been at Philadelphia – soliciting for Liberty to import Provisions for the Use of the Island. They gave Information of the Powder mentioned in your Letter to me, and were of Opinion it might easily be obtained. They were told by the Delegates that every Vessel they should send to the Northward with Powder should be permitted to carry Provisions to the Island. – Whether their Situation will not probably prevent them from bringing the Powder I submit to your Excellency – Mr. [Elisha] Porter, and Mr Harris are both here. To Mr Porter, who can fully inform you in the Matter I refer you.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM LUX AND MATTHEW RIDLEY TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Annapolis August the 11th 1775

We are jointly with Mr William Russell and Mr Daniel Bowly of Baltimore Town Owners of the Brig *Nancy*, Capt Lund; Sometime in the month of May last we chartered this Brig to Messrs Wallace Davidson & Johnson to load with Tobacco in Potowmack for London. She is now loaded and ready to clear out on her intended Voyage; but she having lain longer by a considerable time than was expected in collecting her cargo, and the season having been remarkably dry – the worms have injured her bottom to such a degree as to render her unfit to proceed to Sea: and before she can do so, her Cargo must be relanded and her Bottom sheathed. Work of this kind cannot be done where she lays.

We must have her up to Baltimore. Under these circumstances, the work being tedious, we are apprehensive the Vessel cannot be finishd previous to the 10th of September. It is our wish to make Rules formed for the benefit of the Community, our line of Conduct, nor would we, we assure you Gentlemen, under any specious pretences, endeavour to infringe them. Our situation is a very peculiar one. We beg you will take it into consideration, and allow us, if not in our power to do it before, to reload the above Cargo after the 10th of September. The Vessel & Cargo shall be cleared out before. To obviate every suspicion that may arise of intentions to counteract the general Resolves, we desire to be sworn as to the fitness, and condition of the Vessel to take in her Cargo at the time of her going from Baltimore to Potowmack.

We know the arduous business in which you are now engaged Gentlemen must take up much of your attentions; – We are sorry to be an interruption to it, but hope our situation will be a sufficient apology, as well as further excuse us, in desiring your speedy directions in this business. The Condition of the Vessel being such as to render some immediate steps necessary to be taken with her.

We are with respect,<sup>2</sup>

Gentlemen [&c.]

Will<sup>m</sup> Lux Matt<sup>w</sup> Ridley

1. Md. Arch., Red Book, No. 13.

2. The Maryland Convention received the letter the same day, and came to the following decision: “Resolved, that the prayer of the said memorial be granted, on proof of the allegations therein being made to the Committee of observation for Baltimore County, who are hereby empowered to examine and take the said proof, and if the said Vessel shall not be reladen and depart before 10th day of September next, then oath to be made before her departure, by the Captain and Mate, that no commodities, goods, wares or merchandise, is or shall be laden on board for Exportation, other than such as shall have been laden on Board, as part of her Cargo, before the said 10th day of September, and shall have been relanded”. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 13, 14.

DR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER, BERMUDA<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Norfolk Augt. 11th 1775

Dr Sir I recivd your favors of the 11th & 25th ulto the Accounts of your Safe Arrivall afforded us great pleasure I intended writing you by Capt Hudson, but he Slipt of[f] too Soon for me – . . . I propose, to pay you a visite, this Winter from the present Prospects I am affraid we shall have a very disagreeable time of it here, we expect that this Town will soon be garison'd either with Regulars or Provincials; Should it become the Seat of either it will be equally Disagreeable to the Inhabitants, & make property very precarious . . .

I observe what you Say concerning the Scheme of Lodging Crops in Bermuda. – for the time, our Convention has putt a stop, to it by laying a prohibition, on the Exportation of all Artcles of Provisions, but Corn, which only Continues till the 10th Septr this they did on a Supposition, that there had been agents employd to buy up those Articles for the use of General [Thomas] Gage's Army, but which I believe was without foundation, but I believe its not very likely that our Ports will again be open'd untill our Accomodation takes place and indeed I am not without some Apprehensions of your Suffering in Bermuda, unless, the Generall Congress, grants your Petition of allowing you necessary

Supplies & even in that case the officers of our Custom House refuse to clear out vessels (agreeable to the restraining Act) either to Bermuda or [New] Providence Saying that they are particularly designd, by themselves Sommer & Bohamas Islands & not any of His Majestys West India Islands but Surely they never mean't to exclude these Islands from having Provisions; but I am in hopes that the Congress will consider you, as Americans that wish well to their Cause & Supply you – if not you must open a Trade with Canada and the florida's & a little smuggling, into the out Ports & Bays of the different Colonys. . . .

Arch<sup>d</sup> Campbell

P S. Since writting the above the Convention have open'd the Ports till the 10th of Septr as Merriland woud not move in to the plann –

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Charles Town, August 11, 1775

I cannot let this opportunity slip without giving you a piece of intelligence, which I am sure will please you. Our Admiral<sup>2</sup> and his crew have behaved like heroes; they have lightened Capt. Loftres of six tons of the needful; they surprised a superior crew, and took it out of the vessel lying at anchor within a mile of the castle of [St.] Augustine; ten soldiers were on board, but luckily they had no arms with them; in short, Providence favored us in all points of winds, seas, tides, &c.

A. Middleton

1. R. W. Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1764–1776* . . . (New York, 1855), vol. I, 135, 136. Hereafter cited as Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History*. Middleton was a member of the South Carolina Council of Safety, and Drayton was at Ninety-Six, on a mission involving the Cherokee Indians.
2. Clement Lempriere; see instructions to him of July 24, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY,  
TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Charles Town 11. August 1775

Inclosed you will find Copies of three Letters the Contents of which are very alarming. – one dated 6th Inst from the Committee of Augusta to the Council of Safety at Savanna – one from that Council dated the 8th to the Council of Safety in Charles Town & the third from Capt Moses Kirkland<sup>2</sup> to his late Lieutent [Hugh] Middleton, which are recommended by the Council of Safety to your particular attention.

I have by order of the Council & by the bearer of this written to Collo [William] Thomson & inclosed to him Copies of the abovementioned Letters.

Collo Thomson is enjoined to exert his utmost endeavours for the Interest of the general Cause in this dangerous conjuncture & to avail himself if possible of your advice – If you are in the neighborhood of his Camp he will lay before you his Instructions, which from necessity are general, & the Council of Safety being perfectly satisfied that you will leave nothing undone that shall appear to be necessary have not charged me with any particular direction to trouble you with.

I flatter myself with hopes that your success in the main business of your journey will be found to have anticipated our wishes & that the intelligence from Augusta will prove unbottomed. – I am with great regard Sir by Order – P.S. you know what ought to be done when practicable with Safety in the Case of Kirkland

this Instant a Letter returned from Capt. [Clement] Lempriere arrived with Success beyond expectation – Six Tons – collected at Sea. –<sup>3</sup>

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 126, 127. Drayton and Rev. William Tennant had been sent to the western frontier to pacify the Cherokees and prevent a Tory insurrection.
2. Moses Kirkland, a captain in the Provincial Militia, who had declared for the King.
3. Taken in St. Augustine harbor.

**12 Aug.**

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Saturday, August 12, 1775 Afternoon

The Petition from Deer Island, presented to the late [Provincial] Congress was read, and committed to Captain Parker, Major Howard, and Mr. Woodbridge.

Mr. Cushing brought down from the Board a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, concerning the state of the Army and the propriety of fitting out Privateers.<sup>2</sup>

Ordered, That Colonel Sawyer, Colonel Cushing, and Mr. Cushing, be a Committee to consider the aforementioned Letter and report thereon.

1. Mass. Arch.
2. Washington's letter of Aug. 11, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston 12th August 1775 –

Sir, I am Credibly informed that the Rebels, have fitted out some Armed Vessels and a number of Boats, to intercept the Transports under the direction of Lieutenant Evans, as those ships are Daily expected, I am to beg the favor of you to send Immediately some Vessel of Force to protect them, as their Cargoes (exclusive of the Ships) would be a great loss to this place; I should suppose the Rebels will make their attempt on the Ships coming in with the land.

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

SAMUEL WARD TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence, 12th Augst 1775

On my Return [from Philadelphia] I found the People of Connecticut in Arms for Sixty Miles; a Fleet of twelve Sail of Men of war and Transports had been at the Mouth of New London Harbour; an Attack was expected from them, but they only went to Fishers Island and got about 1000 Sheep and Lambs and 30 head of indifferent horned Cattle, the only fat ones being brought off a few Days before. The Wretch who owns the Island had sold his Stock undoubtedly, for

his Tenant had made yards down by the Sea and got his Sheep and Cattle ready for them before they landed; the People deeply resent his Behaviour. The Fleet then stood for Gardners Island but a Number of armed Men probably prevented their Landing for they got no Stock save at Fishers Island: [James] Wallace and [James] Ayscough and Part of this Fleet returned to Newport and again terrified the People by making every Preparation as if they intended instantly to fire upon them: They stopped the Ferry Boats, strictly examined every Person and took down the Names. They had heard of my Return and expected I should have gone to Newport and were in Hopes of getting one Delegate into their Possession; They took the western Post Rider and propose to send the Mail to Boston. I hope no Letters of Consequence may be in it, but however that may be this shews the impropriety of the Posts passing those Ferries.

1. Du Simitière Collection, Library Co. of Philadelphia.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Providence, August 12.

A Gentleman from Goldsborough, at the Eastward, informs, that about the Middle of July, two armed Vessels, one of 8, the other of 4 Carriage Guns, were sent by Admiral [Samuel] Greaves, on a piratical Cruise to the eastern Parts of the Massachusetts, and venturing too far up Machias River, the Inhabitants of that Place attacked them in a Sloop they had fitted for the Purpose, and took them both, without losing a Man. – The Machias People have now three armed Vessels, which they took from the Enemy; the largest of them is supposed to be worth £800 sterling – About the same time, five Sloops, that had been sent by General [Thomas] Gage for Wood, were taken by the Inhabitants of Major-Baggadoose, a small new Settlement, not far from Fort Pownall; and as there was some Reason to fear that the Fort, which stood at the Head of Penobscot Bay, might be taken by the King's Troops, and made use of against the Country, the People in that Neighbourhood dismantled it, and burnt the Block-House and all the wooden Work to the Ground. – The Prisoners taken at Machias, and at Major-Baggadooss, about forty in Number, were on their way to Cambridge when the Gentleman who brings this Account came away; Among them is Capt. Ichabod Jones, an infamous Tory, who went down in the first armed Vessel that was some Time ago taken at Machias.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

1775 Augt.

[Rhode Island Harbor]

Saturday 12

at 6 A M the Et end of long Island 3 miles Block Island N E b  
E 7 Lgs at 9 spoke Genl Gages Sloop for Boston –  
at 1 P M Point Judith N b W 4 Miles lighthouse N E b N 7 Miles  
at ½ past 3 Anchor'd in Rhode Island harbour & moord Ship a  
Cable each way Do Came on board our acting Lieut. with the  
People <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. The prize crews which had carried the two brigs, taken July 8, into Boston.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 12th [1775].

At a second Meeting of the Committee, in Consequence of the arrival of three Ministerial Officers in the Ship *Hope*, George Curwin, Mr. from Cork. Present: Benjamin Franklin, Owen Biddle, Daniel Roberdeau, George Gray, Samuel Morris, jun'r., Andrew Allen, Robert Morris, Thomas Warton, jun'r., George Ross, Robert White.

An Order was Issued from this Board to Capt. William Bradford of the 2nd Battalion, for him to take into his Custody Major Chris'r French, Ensign, John Rotton, Ministerial Officers, and Terence McDermot, Cadet in the Ministerial Army, with their attendants, and bring them before this Board.

*Resolved*, That the Meeting of this Committee be adjourned to 3 o'clock, then to meet at Smith's Tavern, where Capt. Bradford is desired to conduct the above mentioned Officers.

Agreeable to the adjournment of this day, the Members then present met at Smith's Tavern.

In consequence of the orders Issued to Capt. Bradford this day, the officers therein mentioned was taken into Custody, & brought to this Board from Gloucester, And, upon mature deliberation, finding that the said Christopher French, Major in his Majesty's 22nd Regiment of Foot, John Rotton in his Majesty's 47th Regiment of Foot, Ensign, And Terence McDermot, a Voluntier in his Majesty's Army, having designedly came hither with an intention of joining the Ministerial Army at Boston, under the command of General Gage, who is now acting in a Hostile & cruel manner against his Majesty's American Subjects, it is

*Resolved*, to prevent the said officers & Voluntiers becoming additional Instruments of oppression, That they shall respectively sign the following Instrument of writing, vizt.:

I, Christopher French, Major of His Majesty's 22nd Regiment of Foot, a Prisoner in the Power of the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania, and being kindly treated and protected by them, and enlarged on parole, Do Hereby Solemnly Promise and engage, on the Honor of a Soldier and a Gentleman, That I will not bear Arms against the American United Colonies in any manner whatever, for the space of twelve Months, or untill I may be Exchanged, nor will I, during that time, take any Measures to give intelligence to General Gage, or the British Ministry, or to any Person or Persons whatever, relative to American Affairs, but will proceed with all convenient expedition to the Camp of General Washington, and Submit myself to his further directions, and that I will not directly or indirectly attempt to procure any Person or Persons whatever to rescue me, and that I will not go on board any British Ship of War during the continuance of my engagement not to bear arms.

Philadelphia, 12th August, 1775.

The above engagements being drawn up, were presented to the said Officers and Cadets, were approved of & signed by them seperately. They requesting a Certified Copy of the same; it was agreed to and deliver'd them.

There being imported in said ship *Hope*, Capt. Curwin, the following Packages of goods, Vizt:

6 Bales for the	40th Regt.	
2 ditto. for the	40th do.	
1 Box for the	40th do.	James Morrison.
1 do.	45th do.	Capt. Moore.
2 do.	45th do.	Ensign Percy.
1 Vallice	44th do.	
6 Bales	22d do.	
1 Chest	} 22d do.	William Stapleton.
1 Trunk		
1 Chest	} 22d do.	George Clighorn.
1 Trunk		
1 Portmanteau		
1 Box without mark or Number.		
Baggage for Lieut. Archd French.		
Officers Baggage.		
2 Trunks for Major French.		
1 Valice for	do.	
1 Trunk	} for Ensign Rotton.	
2 Canteens		
1 Bed Box		
1 Hatt Case		
2 Trunks	} for Cadet McDermot.	
1 Bed Box		
1 Small Box		
1 Valice		

Which Goods being for the use of the Army under the Command of General Gage, and baggage belonging to the Officers who came in said ship, it is

*Resolved*, That the said Goods, brought from said ships in one of the Armed Boats of this Province, shall be stored 'till this Committee shall receive directions from the Continental Congress for the disposal of the same, unless it may be thought necessary by this Committee, before the meeting of the said Congress, to remove or otherwise dispose of them, and that this Committee write to General Washington, informing him of the transactions of this Board relative to the said officers and Goods.

*Resolved*, That Colo. Roberdeau desire Capt. William Bradford to deliver the Baggage belonging to Major French, Ensign Rotton, and Mr. McDermot, a voluntier, when required.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON<sup>1</sup>[July 10 to August 12, 1775]<sup>2</sup>

1775 the 10th of July – Being a Stagnation of all kind of Business my Curiosity [led] me to proceed with General [Horatio] Gates, to Cambridge,<sup>3</sup> and after my [arriv]el there, I was politely Introduced by that Gentleman, to General Washington, who in a Few hours Became Acquainted with my Abilities as a Seaman – a man of propperty & Capable of Exicuteing any plan of a Voyage, that may be proposed, Either in the Servis of the States, or O[the]rwise<sup>4</sup> – General Washington acquainted me with the State of the Arme[y] in Respect to Amunition, and Requestd on my Return to Philadelphia – that I would use my Interest with other Gentlemen & proceed on [a] Voyage to Europe for a Cargoe – to which I g[a]ve him my promis[e] The Day Following Departed & on the First of August arived in Philadelphia – and in Conformity I waited on Several Gentlemen of [Fort]une [so]me of whom would have gladly Accepted, had they Be[c]n provided with Cash or Funds in Europe – in the Course of my applications Messrs Morris & Winey agreed to be a party Concerned, on the Following Plan –

First they were to Load a Schooner with Flour on their own Accounts,<sup>5</sup> & in addition to give me their Seperate Drafts for £[80]0 Sterling Each, to which I was to add an Equal Sum for my propportion the vessel to proceed to Europe with her Cargo, on their Accounts & Return on Acct of Thomas Mason & Co mutually on the thirds – while the Schooner was Loading I Repeatedly Acquainted Messrs Morris & Winey – that in Case we Increased our Capital – I was Confident that something would Turn up, while in Europe, to be worth our Attention – on the 8th of august Mr Morris Desired me to waulk into his house, that he and Mr Winey had somethin[g] to Say – Respecting the Future Operations of the Voyage<sup>6</sup> – after I was Seated in his Back parlour – Mr Morris acquainted me, they had Considered my Late proposals, and Concluded to give me their addit[ional] Credit for £500 Sterling Each, To which I was also to add £500 more on my Own Acct – Mr Morris then said, as the Dispute was Become Searious – Betwen us & England – that in his opinion, Bills Drawn on them, was Rather precarious, and he had his Doubts Respecting the Fate of ours – But should the Bills of Either party be protested, on whomsoever the same may Fall – was to be made Good by the party Deficient, on my Return to Philadelphia – that as the Voyage was precarious and uncertain no unforeseen Accident happening should alter our Plan Homewards by the thirds – he also Requested in Case anything should offer, worth my Attention & I Could Obtain a Credit, to Accept of the Same & that every Transaction of mine should be on a[cct.] of Thomas Mason & Co by the Thirds – which is agreable to the Latter part of Mr Morris's Orders – on acct and Risque pr Agreement – Mr Winey Solemnly agreed with Mr Morris's proposals – and his Ideas Respecting Bills of

Exchange – though he said, he was still Purchasing From the Lieftennant Govenor of Georgia at 150 Exchange & Remiting to Messrs Pigon & Booth Merchant[s] in London

these Decleration[s] were Virbely made when the Fate of our Bills was not known, & the Success of the Voyage precarious & Uncertain – in Case of Accident, on my part Shurely Gentlemen I had a Right to the same Claims, they proposed for themselves, thoug[h] it now appears – their Virble Contract of honour was Only Given, To alter, as Circomstances may happen –

On the 11th of August the Vessal being Loaded, I waited on Mr Morris for his Orders, which Expressly says – if you Lay out £3600 stirling in our Account – you are to add £1800 – on your Own, and so in proportion – Note, a Greater or Lesser sum by the thirds – on the 12th do I Departed.

1. Robert Morris Misc., LC, endorsed for identification, "Letters from Robert Morris and Jacob Winey. Also, Extracts from Thos. Mason's Journal of a voyage to Europe in which Morris and Winey were interested."
2. The embracing dates are stated in the journal; July 10, 1775, when he met Washington, and August 12, when he sailed for Europe.
3. Gates, who had been elected Adjutant General of the Army by the Continental Congress on June 17, 1775, did not start for Cambridge until the end of June and paused briefly in New York on July 1.
4. Although Mason calls it his journal, his reference to "the states" rather than to "the colonies" would indicate that it was written long after the period described. He inserted it in an argument he had prepared to lay before arbitrators appointed to settle a dispute between the three principals to the contract. He introduced it with, "When differencés arises Between men, & submitted to Referees to adjust and setle the Same, in my Opinion a plain Candid state of Facts ought to be Layd Before them for their Government and the following is an Extract from the Journal of my proceedings – from the Commencement until the Conclusion of my Voyage."
5. In another fragment of Mason's journal, which largely duplicates the version here used, he wrote, "Capt Hamond, Mason and Patton, then Owners of a Schooner adequate for such a Voyage, Messrs. Morris and Winey agreed to Load her with Flour." This vessel was the schooner *Charming Polly*, of forty tons, jointly owned by Leonard Hammond, Thomas Mason and John Patton, Ships' Registers, Philadelphia, 1773–1775, HSP
6. The other version of the journal reads, "on the 8th of August Jacob Winey Requested me to Wauk with him to Mr. Morris's."

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO HIS MAJESTY'S OFFICERS FOR  
THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Annapolis 12th Aug 1775.

Gentlemen I was informed in the Country and in Town since my Return, that a very unhappy Outrage has been lately committed by burning a Vessel in West River, within your District, and destroying, and plundering her Cargoe.

I wish to have the best Information on this Matter, & therefore Apply to You, as in your Department you may be able to give it. Reports are so indistinct that I know not what to depend upon. I have heard the Affair was taken up, & examined by one of the Committees, and that this Act of Violence was against their Sentiments, as well as against the general Opinion and Inclination.

The Violence may be imputed to a general Disposition unless Suspicion be obviated by a just Representation, and I should be sorry that a general Reproach and Censure should be the Consequence of an Outrage committed by a few Rash and licentious Individuals. It will be expected from Me that I should give a Circumstantial Account of this alarming, irritating, violent Procedure; it is expedient for the general Interest & Welfare, of the Country, that such dangerous Violations of Order, and Property be checked; and I think it my Duty, by fixing the Charge of Violence and Depredation on the real Perpetrators, to prevent undeserved Imputations on the Innocent, and therefore request that You will give me the fullest and best Information that You have received, and are able to obtain of the Circumstances of this Outrage, and of the Persons concerned in it. I shall thereby be enabled to Act as my Duty and Inclination direct, and am,

With Concern at having this Occasion of giving you Trouble, Gentlemen  
[&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Eden.

Honble B. Calvert, Collr  
Honble J. Ridout, N Officer  
Wm. Eddis Esqr Surveyor.

Annapolis District

1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Williamsburg, August 12.

Intelligence was received this morning, that a brig, which was lately taken laden with provisions, and carried into Boston by ministerial pirates, returned from thence to Norfolk last Wednesday [August 9], having on board seven officers of the regular army. We do not hear that any soldiers are come with them, or are to follow; but it is certain that the Earl of Dunmore's ship is now completed for an expedition, and that his Lordship has fitted up thirteen field pieces for service. It is apprehended he intends to commence hostilities upon York or James river very soon.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, POSTSCRIPT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Williamsburg, August 12.

This morning an express arrived from Norfolk, with advice that mr. Hamilton of Nansemond's brig had just returned from Boston, with seven officers from General [Thomas] Gage to assist lord Dunmore in his operations against this colony, in return for the very friendly supply of provisions he received by said vessel; and we learn that his lordship has got 13 field pieces on board the ship *William*, for the use of his army at Gosport, which, it is imagined, he intends soon to put in motion.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK <sup>1</sup>

Sir, His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, Norfolk, August 12, 1775.

I am just informed by his Excellency Lord Dunmore, that Mr. Andrew Sprowle has received a summons to attend a Committee in Norfolk, on Thursday next. The accusations alleged against him are of a most extraordinary nature. In the summons he is charged with having harboured His Majesty's troops in the stores at Gosport. I am not surprised that a summons grounded upon such accusations should be alarming to Mr. Sprowle; particularly after the cruel and oppressive treatment Mr. [John] Schaw lately received from a mob in Norfolk.

As I do most earnestly wish, and shall, upon all occasions, endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, I think it necessary to explain to you, as chief magistrate of the Town of Norfolk, the conduct I mean to pursue, in hope of preserving that peace and obedience to the laws, so ardently to be wished for by all loyal subjects and good citizens. I am sent hither to be the guardian of a British colony; to protect His Majesty's Governor, and all the loyal subjects in the Province of Virginia. This is my duty, and should wish it to be known that my duty and inclination go hand in hand. The same principles which have induced me not to harbour the slaves of any individual in this province will operate with me to protect the property of all loyal subjects. As I have before observed, that I shall endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, it is hardly necessary to mention that I shall not remain an idle spectator, should any violence be offered to the persons or property of any of His Majesty's subjects.

I have reason to apprehend that many Gentlemen in this province, from their connexions with Government, or their readiness to supply His Majesty's ships or servants with provisions, stores, &c. are held up as objects inimical to the liberties of America, and unjustly censured for their loyal conduct. Men under these circumstances are more particularly entitled to my protection. I have not the least doubt, from your desire and readiness upon a former occasion to preserve harmony in the town of Norfolk, but you will heartily concur with me in my endeavours to suppress all party jealousies and animosities, so highly injurious to the welfare of a country. More effectually to perform my part, I shall, the first opportunity, place his Majesty's ship under my command abreast of the town; and I must assure you, that, notwithstanding I shall feel the utmost pain and reluctance in being compelled to use violent measures to preserve the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects, yet I most assuredly shall, if it becomes necessary, use the most coercive measures in my power to suppress all unlawful combinations and persecutions within the province of Virginia.

I am, Sir, [&c.]

John Macartney.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 2, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY,  
TO THE COMMITTEE OF BEAUFORT <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen -

Charles Town 12th August 1775.

Capt Clement Lempriere arrived a few days ago at your Port in a small Vessel having on board a quantity of Gunpowder for the service of this Colony

which we are informed is landed in Beaufort. We think it expedient to lodge twenty Barrels of the said Powder in a safe Magazine or Store in or near Beaufort to be in readiness for removal if necessary to Georgia. We therefore request you to take the trouble of receiving & Storing that quantity observing that none of it is Cannon powder which is easily distinguished by marks on the Barrels, – the inclosed Letter to Capt Lempriere directs the delivery – If you shall think it necessary to keep a Guard upon the Store House your Bill on us for the charges which will be thereby incurred shall be paid.

If the Council of Safety at Savanna at any time shall send for said powder you will deliver it to their Order being first well assured of the authenticity of the application.

By order of the Council of Safety

H L

The Committee at Beaufort Port Royal by Ph[ilip] Will under Cover to D. De Saussure Esqr.

1. Laurens Collection, No. 29, Letters of the Council of Safety, SCHS.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Bermuda Augst: 12th: 1775

Were I certain that a Letter I addressed to you a few Weeks ago, by way of Virginia had been delivered to you, I should not have intruded on Business of greater Importance in which you may be at present engaged, a second Time. But lest any Accident should have happened thereto, I take the Liberty of enclosing you the Plan for continuing the Exports from America to foreign Markets, which I hinted at in the Letter I took the Liberty of troubling you with in Williamsburg. Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin has been addressed by my Father on this Subject, and he has enclosed a Plan for supplying this Island without Danger of infringing the continental Association. Should you think proper to communicate the enclosed to Doctor Franklin, it may possibly serve as a Foundation for some more eligible superstructure.

I am with the greatest Esteem for yourself and the most ardent Wishes in favor of that glorious Cause in which you are at present engaged, Dear Sir [&c.]

St. George Tucker

Proposal Concerning Bermuda

In order to continue the Exports from America to foreign Markets, it is proposed that all non-enumerated Goods be permitted to be imported into Bermuda from the Continent upon proper and sufficient Assurances from the Inhabitants of that Island that they will not infringe that part of the Continental Association which relates to Exports.

For this purpose the Cargoes must be discharged in Bermuda in order to obtain a certificate to cancel the Bond given at the Custom Houses in America in obedience to the restraining Bill.

In order to give a Colour to the Trade being carried on by the Inhabitants of Bermuda (since it might possibly endanger the success should it be carried on in the name of the Americans, as Hostilities have commenced between Great Britain and the Continent,) the Invoices, Bills of Lading &c. should be made out

there and executed in the Name of the Inhabitants of that Island.

Perhaps it might not be amiss to appoint Committees of Inspection, whose Business it should be to see that no Vessel should sail from any port on the Continent untill Charter Parties, or other Engagements be entered into for the landing such Commodities as should be taken on board, in Bermuda without Fraud or Covin.

A Committee should likewise be appointed in Bermuda to prevent the re-exportation of any Commodities imported from the Continent, to any place except what the Congress shall allow. And the same Precautions should there be taken as on the Continent.

For the same Reasons that the Invoices and Bills of Lading should be made out in the name of the Agents in Bermuda, the Charter parties should also be executed in the same Manner.

Mediterranean passes should be procured on the Continent as there may be some Difficulty in getting them in Bermuda.

The above is respectfully submitted to the Consideration of Thomas Jefferson Esquire of Virginia, by, His [&c.]

St. George Tucker

Bermuda Aug: 12th: 1775

1. Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*, I, 239, 240.

### 13 Aug. (Sunday)

"A LETTER FROM GLOUCESTER, CAPE ANN, TO ISALAH THOMAS, WORCESTER"<sup>1</sup>

Gloucester, August 13, [1775]

On the 9th instant, the *Falcon* sloop of war, Captain [John] Lindzee hove in sight, and seemed to be in quest of two schooners from the West-Indies, bound to Salem, one of which he soon brought too; the other taking the advantage of a fair wind, put into our harbour, but Lindzee, having made a prize of the first pursued the second into the harbour, and brought the first with him. He anchored and sent two barges with fifteen men in each, armed with muskets and swivels, these were attended with a whale boat, in which were the Lieutenant and six privates; their orders were to seize the loaded schooner, and bring her under the *Falcon's* bow. The militia, and other inhabitants were alarmed at this daring attempt, and prepared for a vigorous opposition: The barge-men, under the command of the Lieutenant, boarded the schooner at the cabin windows, which provoked a smart fire from our people on the shore, by which three of the enemy were killed, and the Lieutenant wounded in the thigh, who thereupon returned to the man of war. Upon this Lindzee sent the other schooner and a small cutter he had to attend him, well armed, with orders to fire upon the damn'd rebels wherever they could see them, and that he would in the mean time cannonade the town; he immediately fired a broad side upon the thickest settlements, and stood himself, with diabolical pleasure to see what havock his cannon might make. "Now, (said he) my boys, we will aim at the damn'd presbyterian Church—Well, my brave fellows, one shot more and the house of God will fall before you." While he was thus venting his hellish rage, and setting himself as it were against heaven, the

Almighty was on our side; not a ball struck or wounded an individual person, although they went through our houses in almost every direction when filled with women and children; under God, our little party at the water-side performed wonders, for they soon made themselves masters of both the schooners, the cutter, the two barges, the boat, and every man in them, and all that pertained to them: In the action which lasted several hours, we lost but one man, two others wounded one of which is since dead, the other very slightly wounded. We took of the men of war's men thirty-five, several were wounded and one since dead; twenty-four were sent to head-quarters, the remainder being impressed from this and neighbouring towns, were permitted to return to their friends. Next day Capt. Lindzee warped off with but half his men, never a prize, boat nor tender, except a small skiff the wounded Lieutenant returned in.

1. *Massachusetts Spy*, Aug. 16, 1775.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LOAMMI BALDWIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

May it please your Excellency I herewith Send two men who deserted from the *Lively Man* of War this morning about 3 oClock and was taken up by our Guard at Chelsea Beach & Conducted to me by a file of men.

We have had a small brush with the Enemy to day which began about 12 oClock and ended about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of One occasioned by 2 Bearges & 2 Sail Boats going upto the floating Battery that Lay near neck of Land Charlestown and bareing reather to near Malding Point Suppose Capt [Eleazer] Lindseys Company suspected they had Som Evel designe, or a mind to Reveng passd Injuries gave them a prety Smart fire which made them return down the River and with there Swivel guns & Small arms began a fire at our Chelsea soldiers who returnd the fire Briskly haveing been alarm'd by the first firing at Malding one of the Sail Boats Came round near to the old Wreck up Winnessimit where we gave them the Best we had, and they soon made of down among the Shiping & the firing Ceased we suffered no Damage by them there was a great number of Balls Struck one of the Boats & beleve wounded if not killed Some of the men, Some of our men declare they saw a number drop as if they were shot dead whin a Volley was fired from our men its certain they never appeard much in sight again nothing Extraordinary has appeard Sience. I send the Observation as Usual. I am &c.

Loammi Baldwin Lieu<sup>t</sup>

Chelsea Augt 13th 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,  
COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Cape Codd W B N 4 Mi

Sunday 13

At 9 A M Weighed [from Boston Harbor] & came to Sail At 10  
Anchored in Nantaskett Rd in 6 fm P M At 4 Weighed & Came  
to Sail At 7 the Light House West 3 Leags<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The *Kingsfisher* carried Admiral Samuel Graves's order for the arrest of Captain John Macartney upon the complaint of Lord Dunmore, and had as a passenger, Lieutenant Alexander Graeme who was to succeed Macartney in command of the *Mercury*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston Aug. 13. 1775

I have sent the *Lively* in quest of the Transports under the direction of Lieutt Evans, and hope she will fall in with, and convoy them safe to Boston. I am Sir, [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup>. Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

1775 Augt [Rhode Island Harbor]

Sunday 13 Modt & Clear Wr Empd overhalling the Rigging & fitting the Ship  
PM Came on board our Lieut. with the People that were with  
the *Charming Peggy* <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. See Journal for July 25, 1775.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,  
H.M.S. *Mercury* <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

[Norfolk, August 13, 1775]

I just now received yours of yesterday's date, by a Mr. Swan. The summons you mention, I believe did not go from a committee of this borough. I will make the necessary inquiry, and will answer your letter tomorrow.

In the interim, I am, Sir [&c.]

Paul Loyall

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 2, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY,  
TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Charles Town 13th August 1775

Sir We have received a Letter dated the 7th Inst signed by your self & Mr [William] Tennant also yours of the 9th & have taken both under our consideration.

We are truly sensible of your Zeal & diligence <sup>1</sup> in the public service & rejoice to learn that your endeavours have been so far crowned with success. Your self and your fellow Labourers in the present arduous task are intitled to the highest acknowledgements from your Country.

. . . You were probably misinformed of Capt [Moses] Kirkland's intention of coming to Charles Town – the Copy of an intercepted Letter which you will receive in a packet with this shews that he was to have attended an Election at Cuffee Town on the very date of your Letter – such a Watch is set as will not suffer him to pass unnoticed if he appears here in day light, but as we much doubt his venturing We desire you will spare no expence to secure & have him brought hither if that can be done with safety . . .

Capt [Clement] Lempriere returned 4 or 5 days ago to Beaufort with about six Tons Gun powder of the very best quality 20 Barrels of which we have ordered

to rest where it is subject to the order of the Council of safety at Savanna & the remainder we have sent for under a proper guard. We pray God to protect you. By order of &c.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 130–133.

PETER TIMOTHY, SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO  
WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Charleston 13th August, 1775

We have not had a syllable of news from the Northward, since what Mr. [Arthur] Middleton wrote you – that man is worth his Weight in Diamonds. The Packet you left here did not sail till last monday,<sup>2</sup> & was conveyed to some distance by the *Tamar*, which returned into Rebellion Road on Thursday – the very day on which [Clement] Lampriere returned to Beaufort successful from the errand on which he was last ordered.<sup>3</sup> . . . Yesterday Evening the Gunner of Fort Johnson (one [George] Walker) had a decent Tarring & Feathering for some insolent speech he had made: there is hardly a street through which he was not paraded nor a Tory house where they did not halt, particularly [Alexander] Innes's, [James] Simpson's, [William] Wregg's, [George] Milligan's, [Thomas] Irving's &c &c<sup>4</sup> At Fen Bull's they stopt, call'd for Grog; had it; made Walker drink D-----n to Bull, threw a bag of feathers into his Balcony, & desired he would take care of it 'till his turn came; & that he would charge the Grog to the Acct of Ld North, finally the wretch was discharged at Milligan's door. The people were in such a humour that I believe there was scarce a non-subscriber who did not tremble, & Wells had his Shop close shut.<sup>5</sup>

The order of the General Congress respecting Armed Vessels pleased us so well that every member of the Committee took notice of it in my reading. But I wish'd for you on that occasion. I thank you for the List of Members of Congress, among which I rejoice to see your name.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 128, 129.

2. The *Sandwich* packet.

3. Referring to the expedition of the sloop *Commerce* to St. Augustine for gunpowder.

4. Alexander Innes, Secretary to Lord William Campbell; James Simpson, Clerk of the Royal Council; Dr. George Milligan and Thomas Irving, members of the Royal Council. Irving also was Receiver General of the Province.

5. Arthur Middleton, writing to Drayton, described the tarring and feathering, thus: "A Mr Walker Gunner of Fort Johnson had a new suit of Cloathes yesterday without the assistance to a single Taylor . . . his crime nothing less than damning us all. – during his circumcartation he was stopped at the doors of the principal non-associators and was made to drink damnation to them, also not excepting our friend Sr Wm [Campbell] on the Bay." *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 125, 126.

HENRY LAURENS TO COLONEL STEPHEN BULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Charles Town 13th. August 1775.

In Reviewing the transactions which by order of the Council of Safety employed me till near 1 o Clock this Morning, I discovered the omission of those Copies of Letters to which you were referred in the Letter which I had the honour of writing to you by the hand of Philip Will.

N<sup>o</sup>. 22. C. pt. 53.

August 14. 1775

Your Favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> of this Inst. is duly received the former I laid before the General Court of this Province but one of the Delegates having communicated to them what Mr Ward did to you of the Proceeding of the Continental Congress touching this Powder nothing was done towards the providing of specie that the Powder might proceed to other Places in Case of a Disappointment at the first - I am of Opinion that the Collection of any considerable Sum here would be difficult in the Time proposed: and I think this is the less necessary for it as there are few Colonies who have not some Powder out on this Brand of will probably bring all that is at Market - Having conversed with Col. Porter if further considered the Matter. I am of Opinion it ought to be prosecuted on the single Safety of procuring what is in the Magazine. The Reason is when our Necessity is great, the Expectation of being supplied by the Inhabitants of the Island under such Hazards as they must run is slender, so that the only Chance of success is by a sudden Stroke

In the House of REPRESENTATIVES, *Watertown*, August 10th, 1775.

INASMUCH as the Time prefixed by the Continental Congress, prohibiting all Exportation to Great Britain, Ireland and the English West-India Islands is not yet come—yet as this Colony in Union with the Sister Colonies on this Continent are unhappily engaged in an unnatural War with the Parent State, it behoves us under such Circumstances to take all possible Precaution, that none of the Inhabitants of this Colony supply those who are seeking our Ruin with Provisions or any Materials that shall enable them to execute their cruel Designs against us:

Therefore, RESOLVED, That from and after the fifteenth Day of August Instant, no Ship or Vessel shall sail out of any Port in this Colony, on any Whaling Voyage whatever, without leave first had and obtained from the Great and General Court of this Colony, or from some Committee or Committees, or Persons they shall appoint to grant such Leave—and that it be recommended to the Hon. Board to write Letters to the several Assemblies of the other New-England Colonies, advising them to pass a similar Resolve—and likewise that this Resolve be Printed in the several News-Papers of Cambridge and Watertown, and in Hand Bills, and that Capt. Goodman and Capt. Stone, with such as the Hon. Board shall join, be a Committee for getting the same Printed and dispersed to the several Sea Ports in this Colony.

Sent up for Concurrence.

JAMES WARREN, Speaker.

August 14, 1775. In Council, Read and concurred.

And Dr. Taylor is joined.

PEREZ MORTON, Secretary, P. T.

Conferred to

JAMES OTIS,  
B. GREENLEAF,  
W. SPOONER,  
CALEB CUSHING,  
J. WINTHROP,

JN. WHITCOMB,  
ENOCH FREEMAN,  
JED. FOSTER,  
JAMES PRESCOT,  
CHA. CHAUNCY,

ELDAD TAYLOR,  
S. HOLTON,  
JABEZ FISHER,  
MOSES GILL,  
BENJ. WHITE.

A true Copy.

Augst. PEREZ MORTON, Sec'y. Pro. Temp.

you will receive them under this Cover & in So Short a time after the delivery of the former Papers as to remove any apprehension of Damage to the public Service from my Error. I have the honour to be [&c.]

[Endorsed] Copies to Commissions & Colo. Bull & Commee of Beaufort.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

14 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Camp at Cambridge] August 14, 1775

Sir: Your Favors of the 8th and 11th Inst are duly received; the former, I laid before the General Court of this Province, but one of the Delegates communicated to them what Mr. [Samuel] Ward did to you, of the proceedings of the Continental Congress touching this Powder, nothing was done towards the providing of Specie, that the Vessel might proceed to other Places in case of a Disappointment at the first. I am of Opinion that the Collection of any considerable Sum here, would be difficult in the Time proposed and I think there is the less Necessity for it, as there are few Colonies who have not some Vessel out on this Errand, and will probably bring all that is at Market. Having conversed with Col [Elisha] Porter and farther considered the Matter, I am of Opinion, it ought to be prosecuted on the Single Footing of procuring what is in the Magazine; The Voyage is short, our Necessity is great, the Expectation of being Supplied by the Inhabitants of the Island under such Hazards as they must run is slender so that the only Chance of Success is by a sudden stroke. There is a great Difference between acquiescing in the Measure and becoming Principals, the former we have great Reason to expect the latter is doubtful, The Powder by all our Information is public Property, so that as you observe it may be settled with our own Accounts. The draughting of Men from hence would be very difficult and endanger a Discovery of the scheme; I am not clear that I have Power to send them off the Continent and to engage them as Volunteers, it would be necessary to make their Destination known; I should suppose the Captain who is to have the Direction of this Enterprize, would rather choose to have Men whom he knew and in whom he could confide, in Preference to Strangers. From what Col Porter informs me I do not see that Harris's Presence is absolutely necessary, and as his Terms would add Considerably to the Expence, after obtaining from him all the Intelligence he could give, his Attendance might be dispensed with. The Vessel lately sent out to cruise for the Powder, seems to me the properest for this Voyage, and as the Ten Days will soon be out, if no objection occurs to you she might be dispatch'd . . .

I had flattered myself, that the Vigilance of the Inhabitants on the Islands and Coasts would have disappointed the Enemy in their late Expedition after live Stock. – I hope nothing will be omitted by the several Committees and other Persons to guard against any future attempts, by removing all the Stock from these Places, where their Shipping can protect them in plundering. I do assure you Sir, that it would be rendering a most essential Service to the Public Interest,

their Distresses before were very great, and if renewed after their present supply is exhausted, must be productive of very great advantages. I am Sir, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 420-422.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Watertown August 14th 1775

This Court has received information that the Mail from Providence to Newport, which contains Letters from the post Office at Cambridge, was intercepted last week by a Man of Wars boat, in passing Conanicut ferry, and Several of the letters taken out, your Honr is Sensible that it may be of the most consequence, to have letters from these parts, fall into the hands of those who are Seeking our destruction. We therefore request of your Honor, that some order may be taken in your Government, that all Letters to or from the Post office at Cambridge may be Conveyed by Land thro' your Colony, as far as it is practicable, and that none be allowed to be Sent over the Conanicut ferry, -

In the House of Representatives August 14, 1775

The within Draught is accepted - and Sent up to the Honorable Board for Concurrence -

August 14th 1775

Sam<sup>1</sup> Freeman Speakr Pr. temp.

In Council read & concurred

Perez Morton Secry pro temp.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 266.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday, August 14, 1775

The Petition from the Inhabitants of Machias, and the Account accompanying it, were read, and committed to Colonel Otis, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Cushing.<sup>2</sup>

Ordered, That Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Story, and Captain Goodman with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to consult what measures can be taken to cut off the communication of intelligence which is said to go to the enemy by means of the Man of War at Portsmouth.

The Memorial from the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln read, and committed to Mr. Rice, Colonel Orne, and Colonel Davis, with such as the honourable Board shall join.<sup>3</sup>

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 328, from Mass. Arch.

2. Dated July 19, 1775.

3. Dated Aug. 2, 1775.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

Watertown, August 14.

We hear from Cape-Ann, that a Vessel bound in there from the West-Indies, being discovered off that Harbour last Tuesday, [August 8], several of the inhabitants went off in a Boat to assist in bringing her in. Soon after, about 30 armed [men], from the Man of War commanded by Capt [John] Lindzee, boarded and took Possession of the Vessel; but she running aground on the Cape,

was vigorously attacked by a Number of Men from the Town of Gloucester, who soon obliged the Enemy to give up the Vessel to the proper Owners, and to surrender themselves Prisoners. The whole Number was immediately sent to Ipswich Goal, in which 26 of them were confined. The Rest (4 or 5 in Number) were discharged, it appearing that they had been cruelly forced into the Enemy's Service. Lindzee was so enraged that he fired several Cannon Shot into the Town of Gloucester, but did little Damage.

Friday last [August 11] was conducted to this town by an escorte commanded by Capt. Melcher, the officers and crew of the armed cutters *Margaretta*, *Diligent* and their tenders taken at Machias, together with that noted Friend to government, Ichabod Jones, formerly of Boston, and a stanch friend to that infernal traitor to his country, T[homas] Hutchinson. Capt. [James] Moore of the *Margaretta*, was killed in the engagement. Capt. [John] Knight, Lieut. Spry, five Midshipmen and Warrant Officers, together with 17 Privates belonging to the above vessels, we hear are order'd to the more interior parts of this colony.

We are informed that last Thursday evening [August 10] returned to Boston, after about 3 weeks cruize, twelve Transports (having on board about 1000 Ministerial butchers) under convoy of men of war.

#### BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

The letters wrote by Mr. Hallowell to Admiral [Samuel] Graves between the 3d and 20th of July last, respecting Mr. Hallowell's property and the conversation had on that subject, prior to the 11th. of august instant, being already laid before the General, he proceeds now to give a Narrative of what passed between them on that day.

When Mr. Hallowell in the street saw the Admiral and as he could not get an answer to either of his letters, wished if possible to know the reason why his property was still detained from him which was so very detrimental, in consequence of which he then desired to speak with the Admiral on that business Who withdrew from a Gentleman that was with him to the side of the street, and when together Mr. Hallowell civilly asked the Admiral whether he had not received four letters from him? and was answered in the Affirmative. Pray Sir, says Mr Hallowell had you any particular reason for not answering any of them? The Admiral replied, I did not choose it. Then Mr. Hallowell Said when one Gentleman writes to another some kind of answer is expected. He again replied that he did not choose it – then Mr. Hallowell Said Sir, you do not use me like a Gentleman and was advancing to whisper the Admiral in the ear – but was prevented by the Admiral's throwing both his fists in Mr. Hallowell's face, and before Mr. Hallowell could recover himself from the two first he received a third Stroke – Then the Admiral retir'd and drew his sword and pointed it at Mr. Hallowell, on which, and not before, Mr. Hallowell told him that he was a rascal and a scoundrel and asked him if he was not ashamed to draw his Sword on a Naked Man Who had not even a Stick in his hand, and Adding these words "for Shame, put it up," Which, after it had been sometime presented at Mr. Hallowell, he did. Then Mr. Hallowell made up to the Admiral and asked

him what occasioned all this abuse, so unbecoming a Gentleman by Striking a Naked Man and drawing his Sword on him? The Admiral immediately on this struck Mr. Hallowell again with his fist, which he returned and several blows passed between them. Then the Admiral retired a little and drew his Sword a second time presenting it again at Mr. Hallowell who said "for Shame put up your Sword You are No Gentleman to draw on a Naked Man." On Which the Admiral again returned his Sword. Then they closed and several blows pass'd and lest the Admiral Should again draw his sword Mr. Hallowell wrested it from him and broke it, and then they were parted.

Mr. Hallowell is informed that the Admiral declares that he called him rascal and Scoundrel before any blow was struck. This Mr. Hallowell Utterly denies, nor is it at all probable considering Mr. Hallowell was totally unarmed, had his gloves on during all this transaction, and must Naturally have expected, on the use of Such language, an attack from the Admiral—  
Boston 14th, August 1775.

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston August 14th 1775.

Sir, I have the Honor to inclose you Copies of two Letters I have received, respecting the impossibility of the Transports going to Sea for want of Men, which at this time is of Infinite Consequence to His Majesty's Forces here; I have before wrote to you on this Subject, and beg to have an Answer, that I may know what I have to depend on.

My being obliged to trouble you frequently on this Subject, is owing to the Men belonging to the Transports, being impressed and suffered to enter on Board the Men of War, and no possibility of supplying their places her—

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston August 14. 1775.

I am really concerned your Excellency has so much trouble with the Transports people. It is very true many of their Seamen are on board the King's Ships and it is also certain that when Seamen are bent upon leaving a ship no Consideration stops them, And that before the 19th of April had they not been taken in the Men of War, they would absolutely have deserted.

To prevent if possible any farther Complaints to Your Excellency from the Agents of Transports on this head, I will immediately order that No Transport Man shall be received on board any of the King's Ships in future, And I hope the Masters will find Means to keep them satisfied on board

If your Excellency will be pleased to relieve Twenty seven Men in the Scows with Marines that Number shall directly be ordered on board the *Empress of Russia Good Intent* and *Jane* Transports

So far as the safety of the King's Ships will admit of I am heartily willing to give your Excellency every assistance in My power. I have the honor to be with great respect and Regard

Sir [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 14 August. 1775.

I can only say in answer to that part of your Excellency's letter Augt 9. respecting the Bay of Fundy that two Armed Schooners Vizt the *St Lawrence* and *Hope* sailed from hence the 21st ulto with orders to proceed to Annapolis [Royal] and Windsor and bring with them all Vessels they may find laden or nearly ready to depart for Boston. I hope No unforeseen accident will prevent their executing that Service with dispatch and safety.

Captain [Edward] LeCras who is going in His Majs Ship *Somerset* to Halifax to refit and return again to Boston, has my Directions to send the *Tartar* immediately to Annapolis where Capt [Edward] Medows will make enquiry for and convoy to Boston every thing Coming this way. I am Sir with great respect and regard [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 14th [August, 1775]

The Agents of the Transports, under the direction of the General complaining at this time of their crew deserting to the men of War the Admiral let his Excellency know that he would give an order that no seamen from a transport should be received aboard the Kings ships in future.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 174, MassHS Transcript.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR RHODE ISLAND TO  
CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. <sup>1</sup>

Sir

On His Majestys Service

It's near a month since I committed to the care of Mr Lewis two Setts of Vouchers for Sundry Provisions delivered His Majestys Ship *Rose* under your command requesting him to wait upon you for signing them – whether these vouchers have been Presented you Mr Lewis can say – I am now near 2500 Dollars in Advance for the Contract, the Weekly Demand of Fresh Beef is Increased to near Seventy Dollars which money I am obliged to pay Weekly – for the want of these Vouchers to close my Accounts – consequently unable to Draw bills. I am therefore Destitute of the Means to Raise money to pay the Demands of the Contract having exhausted what coud otherways commd was reduced to the necessity of Borrg. this day to furnish the Butcher for Procureing Fresh Beef – a Vessell for England in a few days affords me opertunity to Transmit my accts. &

draw bills to raise Money which is out of my Power to do unless I have those Vouchers to Support my Accounts – If this opportunity is omitted – it will render it Difficult for me to negotiate bills – as it is already become so – thus I have laid before you the Difficulty I labour under & must earnestly Intreat of you – in Behalf of the Contractors as well as myself you'll please to Sign the Vouchers – & cause Mr Lewis to convey them to me, that I may be enabled to pay of[f] the Demands of the Contract. I am with much respect –

Sr. [&c.]

Chris Champlin

Newport August 14th. 1775

1. Peck Mss., III, 44, RIHS.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

Newport, August 14.

Fifteen transports and ships of war passed by this harbour last Saturday [August 5], supposed to be bound to Boston with the sheep, oxen, &c. *taken* from Fisher's and Gardner's Island.

The same day arrived here a ship of war, called the *Glasgow*; so that we are now *protected* by two ships of 20 guns, and one of 16, which is very lucky, as a Spanish war seems so very near, we having never before had any ship stationed here, for our protection, in time of war.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, STATIONED AT RHODE ISLAND, DATED THE 14TH OF AUGUST, 1775”<sup>1</sup>

Two Gentlemen crossing a ferry at Rhode Island in their way from Philadelphia to the Eastward, were stopped by Captain [James] Ayscough, who found several letters in their possession, which were transmitted to Admiral [Samuel] Graves; but I found an opportunity of copying two of them, and herewith send the copies to you,<sup>2</sup> that you may see the real intentions of those miscreants who have misled his Majesty's subjects in North America to commit acts of open Rebellion; and that you may be no longer deceived by the artful publication of those Tories, or give credit to their professions of wishing for Accomodation. There is undoubted proof that both these letters are from Mr. John Adams, a Lawyer at Boston, and one of the Delegates in the Continental Congress.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Sept. 18 to Sept. 20, 1775.

2. The two letters under reference, in the handwriting of John Adams, were addressed respectively to Abigail Adams and James Warren. Adams' initials appear only on the letter to his wife.

#### MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Monday August 14, 1775

Mr [Benjamin] Huntington of the committee appointed for that purpose respecting a small armed vessel &c., reported, that having taken pains they are not able to find any suitable for the purpose, except one belonging to one Hancox &c. of Stonington, but not to be chartered but may be bought for £200, as the lowest sum &c., her sails and rigging not fit for the service; and the question is,

whether she shall be purchased, and was largely considered; and as the General Assembly have ordered vessels to be fitted out &c., the Council supposed themselves obliged to obey the order &c, and there seems no other way, and they judge the vessel cheap, and if and when needless she may be probably sold, perhaps without loss, and the hire saved &c. – Are of opinion that said vessel or schooner called the *Britania*, be purchased for the Colony; and Benja. Huntington, Esqr Cap. Jno Deshon and Cap, Robt Niles, are appointed a committee to make said purchase at not exceeding £200 &c, and also to take care of and cause her to be rigged and fitted out with every necessary for said purpose, as soon as may be. And this Council do appoint Robert Niles of Norwich to be Captain and Commander of her. And said committee are also desired to look out and recommend proper persons for the other officers on board her and make report to the next meeting.

*Voted*, That Cap. Deshon be directed forthwith to put the cannon, small arms, pistols and every warlike implement now at N. London, suitable and proper for armed vessels, into proper order and condition for immediate use, and on receiving advice from Cap. [Giles] Hall, of the larger armed vessel fitting at Middletown, shall be at or near Saybrook ready to receive them, to send them to him there and deliver on board his brig. But if it shall appear there is not a sufficient quantity for both vessels, that they be properly proportioned between them.

Then the Council was dismissed or adjourned till Thursday next, [August 17] at 9 o'clock A.M.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 117.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL, CAMBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

New London August 14th 1775

Since I wrote you last, we have Nothing new, only that the Fleet, that was in our Neighbourhood, has Sailed for Boston, with About Two Thousand Sheep Seventy horn'd Cattle & About Thirty hogs, wich they took of[f] Fisher Island & Gardners Island, I beleive the Gentlemen in the Army, Expected their would have been sum oppositi[on] made by our Militia, but when the Fleet come it was so Stationed Round fishrs Island, that it was Impossible for us to have Landed. In short we were Afraid, att Gardners Island, I think General [David] Worster might very Easily prevented thats being taken of[f] for Two of the Men of Warr left the fleet, and did not go to Gardners Island, he is now att Montaug with Four Companys, we shall have a County Meeting this day to Determine what shall be done with the Remainder of the Stock – by letters from N York I find that flower is very Scarse their, it is att 19s/ P Ct & I beleive you will find it Difficult to git it as fast as you want it – if I Send you any I Suppose you'l Allow me the greatest Price, or as much as you Can Charge – I beleive I Can git a Quantity to Providence, with as much Expedition as any Person, by watching the Men of Warr, and Improving the time when they are out – I am Sir [&c.]

Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw Jun<sup>r</sup>

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS. Trumbull was Commissary of Stores of the Continental Army.

Dear Sir

New London August 14. 1775

Since I wrote you last, we <sup>have</sup> Nothing  
new, only that the Fleet, that was in our Neigh-  
bourhood, has sailed for Boston, with About Two  
Thousand Sheep Security Horn'd Cattle & About  
Thirty Hogs, with they took of Fisher Island  
& Gardners Island, I believe the Gentlemen in the  
Army, Expected their would have been some  
oppositi<sup>on</sup> made by our Militia, but when  
the Fleet come it was so Stationed <sup>to the</sup> Round  
Island, that it was impossible for us to have  
Landed, Inshort we were afraid, at Gardners

Island — by letters from New York I find that  
flour is very scarce there, it is at 19/8<sup>0</sup> of  
I believe you will find it difficult to get it  
as fast as you want it — if I send you any  
I suppose you'll allow me the greatest Price, or  
as much as you can charge — I believe I can get a  
Quantity to Providence, with as much Expedition as  
any Person, by watching the Men of War, and improv-  
ing the time when they are out —

I am Sir Your humble Serv

Nathl Shaw Jr.  


BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,  
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Oyster Ponds, August 14, 1775

Sir, Your favour of the 10th instant, with three hundred pounds of powder, per Captain Griffin, I received; and now acquaint your Honour that last Friday morning [August 11] a large sloop of war and twelve transports sailed round Plumb Island. After they had got through the gut, I sent one hundred and twenty men in three boats, which were all the boats we then had, to said island, if possible to get off the stock, with orders to return immediately upon the first appearance of the enemy's attempting to bring away any of their shipping between the island and Oyster Pond Point, lest their retreat might be cut off, it being impossible to support them without boats. Before the last boat had got over, the sloop of war was observed to be returning, and wind and tide favouring her, our boats were obliged to put back again, the hindmost of which had several cannon fired at her, but at so great a distance they did no damage. A cutter came within fifteen or twenty rods of our last, but discovering there were armed men in the boat, stopped their pursuit. Our soldiers in the boat, and some others on the beach, then fired at them, but I fancy to little effect, as our boat was obliged to make all sail possible to keep out of the reach of the cannon from the ship of war, which was close behind them. The sloop of war then came to anchor between the point and the island and that night took from the island nine cattle, and then joined the fleet, which came to very early on Saturday morning, and I suppose have gone to Boston.

I have since taken from Plumb Island their cattle and sheep, and the inhabitants have engaged to thrash out their grain and convey it from the island as soon as possible. I shall to-morrow go to Gardiner's Island, and make such dispositions as shall appear most conducive to the common good. I expect by Thursday to be able to embark for New York.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 134. The original has not been located. See Nathaniel Shaw, Jr's comment upon Wooster's conduct, this same date.

*New York Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

New York, August 14.

On Tuesday last [August 8] a second Express arrived in Town from Long-Island, and informs us, that thirteen Men of War and Transports were lying at Anchor in Oyster Pond Bay, near Gardiner's Island, but had not landed any of their Men at 4 o'Clock on Monday Afternoon, when the Express came away.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 14th [1775]

*Resolved*, That the list of Medicines recommended by the Physicians of the Hospital, that may be had in this place, be approved of, and that Mr. Bass furnish them for the use of the 600 Men to be employed on board the Armed Boats, and that Mr. Bass put up said Medicines in convenient Boxes, and keep them in his possession till further orders.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 304, 305.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Richmond] Monday, August 14, 1775

The Convention being informed that lord Dunmore was meditating an hostile march, with an armed force, to attack the city of Williamsburg;

*Resolved*, That the committee for the said city, and the committees of York and James City, be desired to pay particular attention to the subject; and if lord Dunmore or any other person, shall land, or attempt to land, any armed troops in their neighbourhood, that they immediately request the assistance of the volunteer companies now in that city to repeal such troops by force; and, if need be, to call in the assistance of the volunteer companies, or militia, for effecting that purpose.

1. *Va. Conv.*, 16.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,  
H.M.S. *Mercury*<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Norfolk, August 14, 1775.

Since writing you yesterday, I find upon inquiry, that the summons referred to in your letter, was sent from a number of gentlemen who are freeholders, and compose the Committee of the County of Norfolk, and are therefore entirely without the jurisdiction of the magistrates of this corporation. I can only promise, that as the place of meeting for the purpose of considering Mr. Sprowle's conduct is said to be within the limits of this Borough, I will take proper care that he shall not be molested or injured in his person by any riot or mob, if he thinks fit to attend on the committee. With respect to the treatment that Mr [John] Schaw received, I was a stranger to it till the disturbance was over; but can assure you, as soon as he put himself under the protection of a magistrate, he was secured from danger.

The conduct which you are pleased to explain to me, as Chief Magistrate of this borough, as your intention to pursue in preserving peace and obedience to the laws, in the station assigned you by his Majesty, must be commended by every good man: By that care in your department, particularly in discouraging the elopement of slaves, which of late it is notorious has frequently happened, from the countenance shown them by some enemies to this colony, as well as to the British constitution, much mischief and confusion may be prevented. Your suggestion, that gentlemen are in danger, by supplying His Majesty's Ships, &c. in this colony with provisions, I cannot account for. I am very sure the contractors for the navy in this town are under no apprehensions of danger, as they have been assured to the contrary in the most explicit manner. I hope suspicions of this nature, prejudicial to the loyalty of a number of inhabitants, who are as much attached to the just prerogative of their Sovereign as any subjects in the Empire, may not be hastily taken up and adopted without full and satisfactory proof.

I am much obliged by your favourable opinion of my readiness to concur in the suppression of all animosities: It has hitherto been, and I trust ever will be, the tenour of my conduct. I have always found the authority of the mag-

istry sufficiently competent for the maintenance of government and good order; and while I thank you for your cheerful offers of assistance for that laudable purpose, yet I presume your intention is only to act within the line of your department. I confess I feel myself somewhat astonished at the last paragraph of your letter, which seems to me to imply a threatening that would eventually prove destructive to the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects. A personal insult offered to an individual, by the ill-guided zeal of a number of thoughtless youth, can never justify a hint of this nature. At any rate it is to be presumed, that Gentlemen in military departments will not intermeddle in that capacity, unless particularly required by the civil authority; as I am determined, whenever I find any unlawful combinations or persecutions to prevail within the sphere of my jurisdiction, to take every legal method to suppress them. I have nothing further to add, but the strongest assurances of the earnest desire of the inhabitants of this borough to live in the most perfect harmony with the Gentlemen of the navy, and hope that no little incident may interrupt it.

Sir your [&c.]

Paul Loyall

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE CAPTAINS OF HIS MAJESTY'S  
SLOOPS *Lynx* AND *Pomona*<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

By James Young Esqr. Vice Adml. of the Red & Commr. in Chief of His Majts. Ships and Vessels employ'd & to be employ'd at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands & in the Seas adjacent.

In addition to the Orders you receiv'd from me (the 24th. July last, & the 8th. instant) you are hereby further required & directed to search all Vessels you may fall in with, that are bound to North America, and are strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder or other Warlike Stores & should you find any such on board, you are to seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me to this place, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my hand on board the *Portland* in English Harbor Antigua  
14th. Augt. 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF  
THE COUNCIL AT ANTIGUA<sup>1</sup>

Honble Gentr.

*Portland* English Harbour Antigua 14th. Augt. 1775.

Having received certain intelligence that sundry Vessels belonging to No. America go to the French, Dutch & Danish Islands in these Seas, & offer unlimited prices for Gunpowder & other Warlike Stores I think it my Duty to acquaint you therewith; as so many Vessels come in here, daily from thence, who may have the like directions to purchase it at any rate; And I also hear there is at present great quantities of Powder &c at St. Johns & am fearful the vast price offered may tempt the Proprietors to run risques & dispose of it, which must prove of the utmost

disservice to His Majesty by thus assisting the North Americans, who are now declared to be in open Rebellion. I therefore hope you will take this matter into consideration and use what method you shall think best, to prevent such illegal & dangerous practices especially as it may be in your power to find out whether there is any ground for such suspicions

The Season of the Year will not now permit any of His Majts Ships to lye in St Johns Road to search all such Vessels as are bound to America otherwise I would send one. I am &c

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

**15 Aug.**

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA <sup>1</sup>

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 15th of August 1775

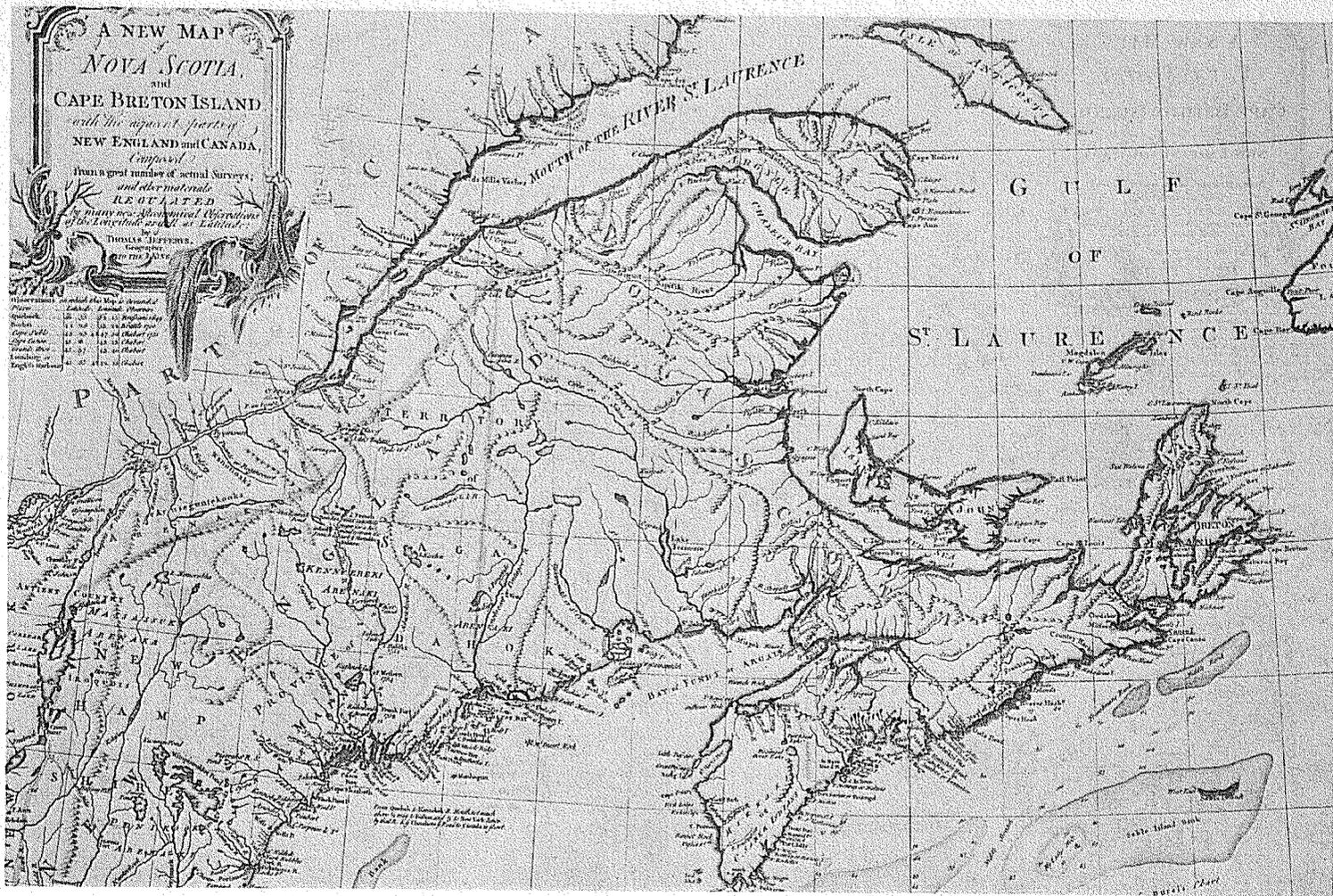
Present

His Excellency the Governor The Honorable Jonathan Belcher  
Charles Morris, Richard Bulkeley, Henry Newton, Arthur Goold,  
John Butler, James Burrows, Counsellors

The Governor laid before the Council letters received last night from Windsor from the Lieut. Governor <sup>2</sup> [and] Mr. [Isaac] Deschamps assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, dated the 12th Instant received the 14th. at night; setting forth that by Persons lately arrived from Machias in the Bay of Fundy, there was intelligence receiv'd that the People of that Place were mediating a design of equipping two Vessels, the *Diligent* Schooner lately taken being one of them who were to proceed up the Bay of Fundy & thence into the Bason of Minas in order to come to Windsor & destroy the Vessells lying there laden with Hay & Provisions for Boston to destroy the Cattle in the Country if they could not carry them off, also that they were fitting out several small Vessels in order to Cruize & Seize on the Vessells laden with Provisions, and the Lieut. Governor signifies by his letter that he has strong reasons to believe that a great part of the Militia of the Bay of Fundy had no inclination to oppose their Country Men in case of any attempt.

And the Council having taken the foregoing Intelligence into Consideration were of Opinion that application should be made to the Officer Commanding the Navy in this Harbour that he wou'd Order His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* to proceed to the Bay of Fundy without loss of time for the purpose of protecting the Vessells laden with Provisions and Stores for the Army, & all Vessells Sailing to & from there, to give all possible aid & Protection to that part of the Province. The same to be signified to the Commanding Officer by Letter.

And the Governor Signified his intention to Order all the Recruits for the new Corps now raising in this Province to march forthwith to Windsor with seventy five rounds of ammunition each, there to be quarter'd untill further Orders & to receive directions for their Conduct from the Magistrates, to which the Council consented & Agreed.



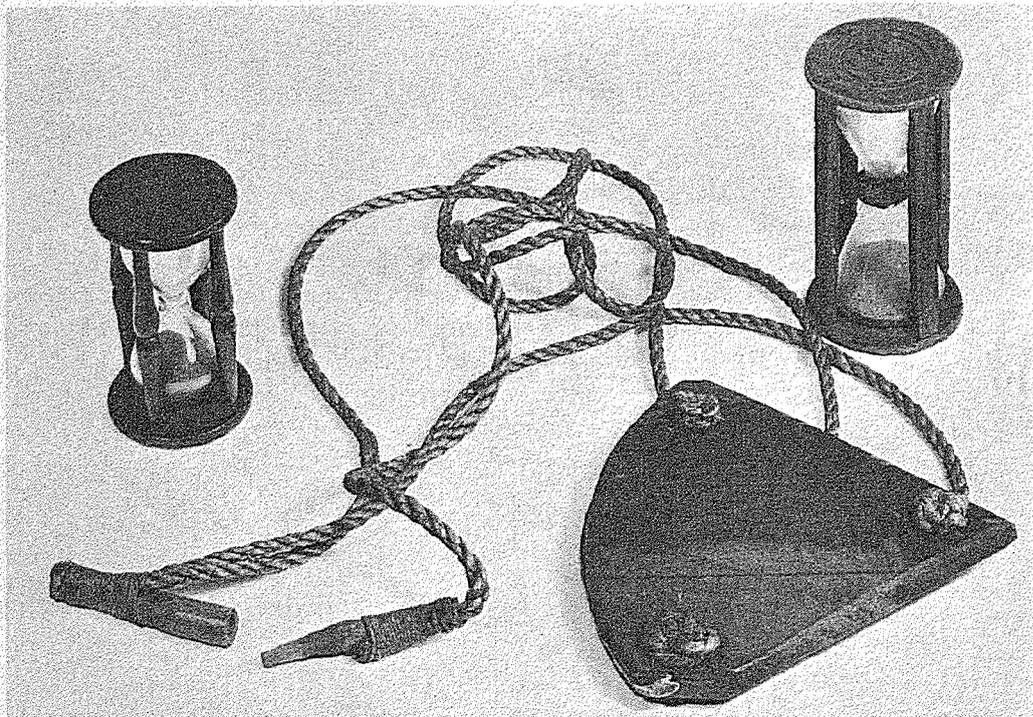
Map of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island, 1775.

Moored.

Light breeze and fair at 10 past 3 till the Nebels opened two Batteries and fired on our  
Horn and Hoisting Battery at 6 saw a Party of them a board of four ship, on whom we  
fired two 12 Pounders, Guard boat employed as before.

8<sup>th</sup> Weather fresh variously employed, Guard boats as usual and Long boat  
Watering, sent back to Work Characterly because of Provisions by the *Cherish* *Stony*  
*Goodfellow*.

Tenth past 8<sup>th</sup> Weather middle squally with heavy rain latter moderate, Boat as  
above, ~~sent~~ lashed sails to dry.



(Top) HMS Fowey log entries, August 16-18, 1775. (Bottom) Chip log and sand glasses.

Order'd that the Colonel of Militia have in readiness the Men upon whom they can most depend to March on the first notice, And that all Officers of the Militia do take the Oath to Government at the next Meeting of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in the County to which they belong.

1. Minutes of Council Aug. 23, 1766 to Oct. 6, 1783, N.S. Arch. Hereafter cited as Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.
2. Michael Francklin.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO CAPTAIN EDWARD  
MEDOWS, R.N., H.M.S. *Tartar*, HALIFAX <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Halifax 15 August 1775

Having received information last Night by letter from Windsor from the Lieut. Governor and from Mr. Deschamps, One of the Assistant Judges of the Supreme Court, that from intelligence they just then received the People of Machias were Meditating a design of equipping two Armed Vessells, the King Schooner *Diligence* lately taken being one of them, in order to proceed to the Bay of Fundy and thence into the Bason of Minas to come to Windsor and there destroy the Vessells laden with Provisions and Hay for the Army at Boston, Also to destroy the Cattle in the Country if they could not carry them off.

I therefore thought it necessary to take the Opinion and Advice of His Majesty's Council, in Order to take Measures to prevent the ill consequences which Might attend such an Attempt, and the same having been taken into Consideration – It was Resolved that application should be made to the Officer Commanding His Majestys Ships in this Harbour, that he would Order His Majestys Sloop *Senegal* to proceed to the Bay of Fundy without loss of time, there to Cruize for the purpose of protecting the Vessells laden with Stores and Provisions for the Army, and all Vessells Sailing to and from the Bay, and to give all possible Aid and protection to that Part of the Province –

And I do Sir, Accordingly communicate this Resolution to You for His Majesty's Service, and for the Safety and Protection of His loyal Subjects in those Parts. I am Sir [&c]

Frans Legge

1. Council Letterbook, 210, N.S. Arch.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Halifax Nova Scotia 15 August 1775

Enclosed are the Copies of letters from Lieutenant Governor [Michael] Francklin and Mr. [Isaac] Deschamps One of the Justices of the Supreme Court giving information of intelligence they have received respecting what is Meditatin by the People of Machias against this Province. – And in Consequence thereof I did with the Advice of His Majesty's Council Apply to Captain [Edward] Meadows Commanding of the King's Ships in the Harbour, that he would order his Majesty's Ship *Senegal* into the Bay of Fundy to protect the Vessells Carrying

the Hay and Provisions for His Majesty's Forces at Boston and to Aid and protect that part of this Province.

I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Frans. Legge

1. Council Letterbook, 212, N.S. Arch.

*New Hampshire Gazette*, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1775

Portsmouth, August 15.

Committee Hall, Portsmouth August 13, 1775. The Committee of Safety finding it inconsistent with the Peace and good Order of this Town, that any further communication should be kept up between the Ship *Scarborough* and the Town,

*Therefore Voted*, That henceforward no Boats pass or repass from the said Ship or the Town of New-Castle without a Permit from this Committee, or the Select-Men or Committee of New-Castle.

By order of the Committee:

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

We are credibly inform'd, that in Consequence of the above Vote, Capt. [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough*, has stopped all our Shipping, outward and inward bound.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 15, 1775

Report of the Committee on Capt. Jeremiah Obrian's Account. Read and recommitted for amendments.

Benjamin White, Esq; brought down the Report on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln.

1. Mass. Arch.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Cambridge Camp, August 15, 1775.

I am glad to relieve you from your Anxiety, respecting Troops being sent from Boston to Quebeck. These Reports, I apprehend, took their Rise from a Fleet being fitted out about fourteen Days ago to plunder the Islands in the Sound, of their live Stock; an Expedition which they have executed with some Success, and are just returning; but you may depend on it no Troops have been detached from Boston for Canada or elsewhere.

1. Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Tuesday 15

Moored with Springs on our Cables in Chas Town River at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P M the Rebels Opened two Batteries and fired on our lines And floating Battery at 6 saw a Party of them a breast of our ship, on whom we fired two 6 Pounds.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence August 15th 1775

I think it my Duty [to] inform you that on Friday Morning last [August 11] as Benjamin Mumford who rides Post from Newport to New London was crossing the Ferry to Newport he was taken by Capt. [James] Wallace of the Ship *Rose* who broke open the Mails sent some of the Letters ashore and kept the Remainder in Order to send them to Boston – He detained Mumford until Yesterday.

As the Mails will always be in the Power of the Ships of War so long as the Post continues to cross the Ferries to Newport which will not only render all Intelligence precarious but may be the Means of giving such Informations as may be very prejudicial to the common Cause I take the Liberty of recommending that the Mails be brought through Narragansett directly to this Town instead of being carried to Newport; and that they be returned the same Way

Mr [Samuel] Ward informs me that he delivered to you a copy of the Act of Assembly establishing Post-Offices and Post-Riders in this Colony. In that Act Mr Nathaniel Otis was appointed Post-Master for Newport; who hath removed to Middletown in Connecticut. The General Assembly have since appointed Mr Solomon Southwick in his Room.

I am with great Truth and Regard Sir [&c.]

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 266, 267. Franklin had been elected Postmaster General on July 26, 1775.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO THE KINGS COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND, COM-  
MITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

New London 15th Augt 1775

We take the Liberty of inclosing you the Copy of a Letter received from his Excellency General Washington which you will find was wrote in Consequence of the late unhappy Plunder of Stock from Fishers Island in Addition to the Stock being taken from the above Island, you will probably have heard of a Quantity of Stock having been likewise plundered from Gardner's and Plumb Island. Committees from the Several Towns in this County are now convened with a Desire of falling on Some immediate Measures to have the Stock all removed from the different Islands in the Sound, and are like to succeed in having the Stock removed from Fishers Island without delay and shall, before we rise, endeavour to be as well agreed in some effectual Measures to remove all from Gardiners, Plumb and Shelter Islands; and We being all embarked in One grand important Controversy would earnestly recommend to the Several Committees in your County to loose no Time in endeavouring to have all the Stock removed from Block Island, and to take such wise Precautions relative to other Stock that you may think exposed as your Wisdom and Vigilance Shall direct. We are with great esteem

Gentn. Your most humble Servant

pr Order

G. Saltonstall, Chairman

We have the pleasure of sending this by Col [Joseph] Noyes who has been very obliging in attending this Meeting.

To the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection in the Several Towns in the County of Kings County Rhode Island

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 267, 268.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 15th [1775].

Upon application of Messrs. Mead & Coy, who produced a Letter from the Purser of the *Nautilus*, for the supplying him with Soap, Candles, & Port Wine, for the use of said ship, it was allowed that they might Supply Them with the following quantity, vizt: 1 Hhd. Port Wine. 4 Cwt. Candles. 1 Cwt. Soap.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 305.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK<sup>1</sup>

His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, Norfolk, August 15, 1775.

Sir, I was favoured with your letter of yesterday's date, and it gives me much real satisfaction to find that the inhabitants of Norfolk are so earnestly desirous of living in harmony with his Majesty's servants. You are pleased to assure me that no violence or insult shall be offered to the person of Mr. Sprowle; and upon the faith of your letter I have requested him to attend the Committee to-morrow. For some days past I have been much indisposed, but if I find myself well enough to-morrow, I mean to accompany Mr. Sprowle to the committee, and will call upon you about 11 o'clock to-morrow morning. I must beg that you will go along with us.

You, I am sure, will agree with me that the summons sent Mr. Sprowle (a copy of which I have enclosed you) must be truly alarming to all good citizens. When any set of Gentlemen assume to themselves the power of arraigning an individual for furnishing barracks for his Majesty's troops, and pretend to censure a conduct, which I must think highly laudable, it gives me but too much reason to apprehend, that the authority of the civil magistracy is not competent for the support of government and good order.

I am Sir [&c.]

John Macartney

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

Mr Speaker & Gentlemen of the Commons House of Assembly When I declined some time ago to comply with your request to adjourn, I too plainly foresaw the unhappy extremities to which many of the People in this Province were hast'ning; & had good grounds to apprehend I should want your advice, & assistance. — Since that time I have been a Spectator of outrages I little expected ever to have seen in this place. I will confine myself to a very few. The Officers of the Crown have been call'd on to give reasons for not signing an Association, that was contrary to every tie of Duty & Allegiance. I now see the same Officers Summon'd in the

like arbitrary, & illegal manner, to have an Oath tender'd to them equall incompatible with their Consciences, & honor. The barbarous outrage committed in the Streets of this Town on a poor, helpless, wretched, individual, with the particular circumstances of Cruelty, & Insult, I forbear to dwell on. In a word Gentlemen you well know the powers of Government are wrested out of my hands. I neither can protect, nor punish; therefore with the Advice of His Majys Council I apply to You, & desire that in this dreadful emergency You will aid me with all the assistance in Your power, in enforcing the Laws, & protecting His Majys Servants, & all other peaceable, & faithfull Subjects, in that quiet possession of their liberty, & property, which every Englishman boasts, it is his Birth Right to enjoy, or You must candidly acknowledge all Law, & Government is at an end. – Sorry I am to add that Some particular Insults offer'd to myself, makes it necessary that I should be assured of the Safety of my own Family, & that its Peace is not in any danger of being invaded.

W. Campbell

Charles Town, 15th August 1775

1. Dartmouth Mss. NCDAH

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 15. Showery and thunder squalls. An Express from Charlestown arrived with an account of the Governor's<sup>2</sup> sloop being in pursuit of us.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I. The *Commerce* was at anchor off Port Royal on Aug. 12, 13, and 14.
2. Governor Patrick Tonyn of East Florida.

16 Aug.

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA<sup>1</sup>

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 16th of August 1775

Present

His Excellency The Governor The Honorable Jonathan Belcher

Charles Morris, Richard Bulkeley, Henry Newton, Arthur Goold,  
John Butler, James Burrows, Counsellors

Captain [Edward] Meadows Commandr of His Majestys Ship the *Tartar*,  
Captain [William] Duddingston Master & Commander of His Majestys ship  
*Senegal*.

Captain Duddingston informed the Governor & Council that being at Penobscot lately with some Transports he saw four Sloops returning from a design against Fort Penobscot, that he was informed they were full of Men & he supposed them to be pirates and that from several informations there was near seven hundred Men on that part of the Coast & above nine hundred Men further on towards Cascoe Bay – And then Captain Duddingston part of His Instructions

whereby he was directed to proceed to Machias Harbour there to destroy any vessells he may find, provided the Transports could proceed on their business with safety.

Captain Medows in answer to the requisition made to him of yesterday Represented that the *Senegal* might be very unequal to the Force of which might be opposed to him by Pirates in the Bay of Fundy & that the most effectual Measure to prevent any attempts by Pirates would be to proceed directly to Machias with the *Tartar* Man of War, the *Senegal* & an Armed Schooner which would probably be sufficient to destroy any preparations making at this time at Machias, & then produced a part of the Admiral's Instructions requiring him to do his Utmost for the Safety & security of this Province & to destroy any Pirates which might be found on this Coast, And then proposed the consideration of the Security of the Dockyards during his absence.

On which it was the Opinion of the Council that the most effectual Measure to be taken at this time for the security & defence of the Province is that His Majesty's ships in this Harbour do proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy & there to Act in such manner as should appear most conducive to the good of his Majesty's Service –

And it was Resolved, that for the Security of the Dockyard in the Absence of the *Tartar*, One Subaltern Officer & Twenty Men of the 65th Regiment do mount Guard there this Evening & continue so to do untill further Orders.

Also that One Subaltern Officer & twenty four Men of the Militia do Mount the Town Guard this night & Continue so to do until further Orders.

At a Council holden at Halifax on the Evening of the 16th of August 1775

Present [as previously listed]

Mrs. Susannah Sheppard who had lately arrived in this Province from Machias in the Bay of Fundy & Province of the Massachusetts Bay being examined declar'd That she had come a Passenger from Philadelphia to Machias on board a Schooner which had been Charter'd by William Shey & others; & was laden with Corn, Flour & Pork, that the said Vessell was permitted to sail from Philadelphia only on the condition of coming to Machias, or some port to the Westward; to which William Shey & the Master & others were Sworn, that the Schooner got on a Rock going into Machias, on which a Person named Stephens who call'd himself a Lieutenant to one [Jeremiah] O'Brien, came on Board a Vessell well Mann'd & help'd the Schooner off & then forced her to proceed to Machias where they unloaded the Cargoe –

That she the said Susannah Sheppard was there eleven days & heard the People say that they would come with two thousand men into Nova Scotia & go thro' it to discover the Whigs from the Tories & that they would take the latter with the Governor, prisoners.

Mr William Shey being call'd in & examined corroborated the foregoing declaration, And further added That the people at Machias declar'd that they only waited until the Hay & Corn in Nova Scotia were cut down & collected, & then they would come & carry it off, that O Brian was gone to Congress; from

whom on the return of O'Brien, they expected orders for that purpose, And that they proposed to Collect a force from all the Coast as far as Casco Bay.

1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.

RICHARD BULKELEY, SECRETARY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL, TO CAPTAIN  
EDWARD MEDOWS, R.N., H.M.S. *Tartar*<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Secys Office Halifax 16th August 1775 –

The Governor and Council having taken into Consideration the information given this day by the Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* of the Armament of the Rebels in the Eastern parts of New England, and his Instructions. Also your Representation of the Inequality of the *Senegal* to answer the purposes of the requisition made to you on Yesterday and your Instructions for the suppressing of Piracy and for the Protection of this Province, were of Opinion & Resolved, that the most effectual Measures to be taken at this time for the Security and defence of this Province is, that his Majestys Ships Now in this Harbour do proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy, there to Act in such manner as shall appear most conducive to the Good of His Majestys Service.

And having further considered the Security to be provided for the Dock Yard during the absence of His Majesty's Ship *Tartar*, I am to inform you, that one Officer and 20 Men of the 65th Regt are this Evening to relieve the marines now on duty there.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Richd Bulkeley

1. Council Letter Book, 215, N.S. Arch.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL  
GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Halifax, Nova Scotia 16th August 1775

Yesterday I have the honor of acquainting you of the requisition I made, that His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* might proceed to the Bay of Fundy, but on the representation of Captain [Edward] Medows & the information of Captain [William] Duddingston, of the numbers of the people on the Eastern Coasts of New England, and of four Sloops which they had equipped, and the Number of Men they had ready for any Enterprize & on the Representation of Captain Medows, that the *Senegal* would not be equal to oppose the Vessels which might be fitted out by the Rebels, it was this day taken into Consideration in Council & thereon Resolved, that the most effectual Measures to be taken for the defence and Security of this Province is that His Majestys Ships now in this Harbour should proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy, there to Act in such manner, as shall be most conducive to the Good of His Majesty's Service.

And this Resolution being also conformable to the Instructions to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships here, they have been accordingly communicated to them.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Frans Legge

1. Council Letter Book, 216, 217, N.S. Arch.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Halifax August 16th 1775

Sir Since my last Letter to your Excellency I have entered into an Agreement with Mr. Barton for procuring the number of Ship Carpenters & Seamen you proposed to be raised here, and I was informed by him Yesterday that he had procured Thirty Six in the whole about one half Carpenters and the other Seamen, that he could have compleated the whole number before now; but chooses to have such men as will Answer the purposes for which they are designed, & that he shall soon compleat the number & be ready for embarkation as soon as the Vessel arrives. I enclose your Excellency a Copy of my Agreement with him containing the Terms & Conditions, upon which they are to enter into the Service.

Your Letter of the 29th July last I have received & would observe to your Excellency that the Militia of this Province are not to be depended on case an Attempt should be made on this Province by the People of the Eastern Parts of New England, as most of them especially in that part of the Country are from New England, & am very Doubtful whether the greater number are not too much of the same Sentiment with the People of the Country from whence they are derived.

By Advices from Machias, it is now rendered certain Mr. Knight is taken & both his Vessels. That a Vessel has lately arrived there from Philadelphia sent by the Congress with Provisions That OBrien who commanded the Vessel fitted out to Cruize for the Provision Vessels Bound from this Province with Cattle & other Provision, is gone to the Congress at Philadelphia for orders, that another Person commands her. We are informed that along the Eastern Coast several small Vessels are fitting out for the like purpose so that Navigation between Boston & this Province will become uncertain & Dangerous That I have had these matters before His Majesty's Council & the Copy of the Letters, & their result thereupon will herewith be Transmitted to your Excellency.

I had ordered the new Recruits being about 36 Men with their Officers to march to Windsor about 40 Miles Distant from hence, where the Vessels & Stock now are waiting for Convoy. I had Advice from hence that they woud be in Danger not only from the Pirates at Machias who have been into the Bason of Minos but from some evil minded People of this Province, & that this was a most necessary measure for their Protection but the Officers have refused, as your Excellency will perceive by their Letter here inclosed.

I cannot but observe to your Excellency that this kind of behaviour of his Majesty's Officers will have a tendency to render them entirely useless hitherto I have been able with the Assistance of the Civil Magistrates to preserve this People in due Obedience but from Appearances I shall not be able to continue them much longer without the Assistance of some Troops & Officers who will pay due Obedience to my Orders. And the Navy & Army will be Defeated, & disappointed of their expectations of receiving any more Supplies from this Province, which at best will be very inadequate to their wants. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”<sup>1</sup>

Augst 1775 A M Fired two Swivells shotted at a Ship from Grenada, stopped  
Wednesy 16th her for having ordnance Stores on board.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The ship *Elizabeth*, Thomas Ashburn, master, with rum, sugar and cotton, from Grenada for Piscataqua. Her cargo was bought for the use of the army in Boston, and the vessel was cleared. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JAMES OTIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY<sup>1</sup>

Sir: Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 16, 1775

I am informed that Captain [Jeremiah] Obrien, or some other person, has stopped the baggage of the officers taken at Machias, as a compensation for some expence incurred which the General Court did not think proper to allow him. A procedure of this kind would, in my opinion, much dishonour the American arms, and be attended with very disagreeable consequences. I trust therefore, Sir, that the General Court need only to be informed of the transaction to do what is proper; and, as the prisoners are entirely under their direction, will, before they remove them to the place of their destination, give such orders in the matter as to prevent any reasonable cause of complaint. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 426, 427.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday, August 16, 1775

The Report on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln, Read and recommitted.

The Report of the Committee of the Petition of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth. Read and accepted

Resolved, That the owner of the Vessel mentioned in the foregoing petition, have liberty to proceed either to Dartmouth or Swanzey, as he shall think most for his benefit; and that such procedure with said Vessel and Cargo, by orders of the owner, be not interrupted.

Sent up for concurrence.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth, was brought down by Mr. Gill, with some amendments.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition from the Inhabitants of Machias read, and recommitted; and

Ordered, That Captain Partridge and Colonel Bowers be added to the Committee.

Afternoon

On the Petition from Machias,

Resolved, That there be raised at Machias a Company of fifty Men, Officers included, on the same pay and for the same time as the Forces that are already raised for the defence of the Sea-Coasts, and that there be allowed by this Colony six Shillings a week per man, billeting, during their service; and the Colony to

supply said Captain Jeremiah Obrian, for the use of said Company, with fifty weight of Powder, and Ball, equivalent, he to be accountable to the Court for the same; and said Company when raised to be under the direction of the Captain as to their station. Also, Resolved, That said Jeremiah Obrian be paid out of the Treasury of this Colony the sum of one hundred Pounds, towards his account, exhibited with this Petition, he giving security for the same, with one surety, (to this Colony Treasurer,) until he brings proper vouchers to support his Account.

[Endorsed] In Council August 16, 1775: Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 332-334, from Mass. Arch., 206, 229.

*Massachusetts Spy*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1775

Worcester, August 16.

We are informed that among the prisoners taken at Cape Ann, is one [Justin] Budd, Gunner of the *Falcon* sloop of war, who was some time ago taken at Machias with a number of others and brought to this town, and upon being released from close confinement, took an opportunity to run off with a few of our tory gentry, and got on board the *Falcon* again. It is hoped, this fellow, if retaken, will be better secured.

How is the glory of Britain departed! Her army which not long since was the terror of many nations, is now employed in cutting the throats of his Majesty's loyal subjects and Sheep Stealing! – *Felons indeed!*

PERMITS TO THOMAS SPARKS ISSUED BY G. GEFFERINA, SECRETARY TO  
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

The Bearer Thos. Sparkes is employed in procuring fresh provision & refreshment for the Admiral's family, It is desired that No body will take any thing from him & that he be allowed to Come to the Admirals Wharf.

Boston Aug. 16, 1775

G: Gefferina

Thos. Sparkes has the Admiral's leave to Carry out 10 lb Tea – 10 Gall Melasses 10 gall Rum <sup>2</sup>

Aug 16, 1775

G: Gefferina

1. Otis Collection, CUL.

2. A captured document; see Cobb to Otis, September 7, 1775 in vol. II.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 Ho. A.M., August 16th, 1775

Whereas, agreeable to a resolution of this Congress, the Mayor and magistrates of this city have been requested to procure a barge to be built for His Majesty's ship *Asia*, to replace the one lately destroyed; and this Congress being informed that the carpenters in this city decline undertaking to build the said barge; being apprehensive, by threats given out by some persons, if they should undertake to build the said barge, that the same may not only be destroyed, but that their persons or property may be injured or insulted.

*Resolved*, That all persons who have given such obstruction by threats, to the execution of the aforesaid order, or shall hereafter, by threats or violence

oppose the same, ought to be considered as factious, disorderly members of the community, and as guilty of a dangerous attempt to destroy the authority of this Congress, and to render them contemptible.

*Resolved*, That for the purpose of effectually carrying into execution the said order, and to defeat the malicious designs of such as dare to condemn or oppose the authority and orders of this House, Mr. Henry Sheaf be ordered immediately to set about building a proper barge for the said ship *Asia*, and to finish her with all possible dispatch. And that Colonel [John] Lasher be ordered to furnish a sufficient guard, who are to be relieved at the discretion of the colonel, to protect the said barge while building, and to see her safely delivered for the use of the said ship. And the magistrates as well as the other inhabitants of this city, are requested to give all necessary aid in this business; that it may be known whether a few rash and restless individuals out of doors, or the representative body of the Colony in this Congress are to direct the measures for our publick safety at this dangerous and critical juncture.

*Resolved*, That if any person or persons shall be found threatening or attempting to destroy the said barge, they be taken into custody by the said guard, and detained 'till the order of this Congress shall be made respecting them.

Ordered, That these resolutions be published in Holt's and Revington's newspapers, to-morrow.<sup>2</sup>

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 108, 109.

2. The resolutions appeared in the *New York Journal* and *Rivington's New York Gazetteer* on Aug. 17, 1775.

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1775

Norfolk, August 16.

Last week several slaves, the property of gentlemen in this town and neighbourhood, were discharged from on board the *Otter*, where it is now shamefully notorious, many of them for weeks past have been concealed, and their owners in some instances ill-treated for making application for them. The public, it is generally thought, is indebted for this discharge to a higher power than any on board that vessel.

The officers that lately arrived in a vessel from Boston still continue at Gosport. Two of them, as we hear, are captains, one a lieutenant, three of them ensigns and one a surgeon. Some of them expressed great surprise, when in answer to their enquiries, they were told there were no men raised here, as it seems they had been made to expect that government, as it is called, could raise troops here at will.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commence*, BY  
CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 16 Squally weather, with a great deal of rain. Sundry companies of militia and light infantry, came to town from the different islands, to guard the powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

17 Aug.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1775

Cambridge, August 17.

Last Monday morning [August 14] came to town from Ipswich, 20 of the Prisoners taken at Cape-Ann the Tuesday before.<sup>1</sup>

1. The men from H.M.S. *Falcon*, captured in that ship's boats in Gloucester harbor.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, August 17, 1775 Afternoon

John Taylor, Esq. brought down the Report of the Committee on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia in the County of Lincoln, viz:

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Memorial of the officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia in the County of Lincoln, beg leave to report, that the conduct of said Regiment of Militia in destroying Fort Pownall, and taking a number of vessels mentioned in said Memorial, is highly approved; that the Sloops mentioned as taken in said Memorial, together with their rigging and sails, be secured in some place or places of safety by the Selectmen and Committees of Correspondence of each Town in the County of Lincoln where these vessels now are, until the further order of this Court; that the Schooner taken as mentioned in said Memorial, be and remain in the care of the petitioners, to be by them employed in defence of the sea-coasts of those eastern parts, and the annoyance of our enemies, in the most prudent and effectual manner, until the further order of this Court; that the Boat or Barge mentioned in said Memorial be under the care of Colonel James Cargill, to be by him used and employed in the Colony service, until the further order of this Court; that Messrs. Phillips and Cruger be discharged, evidence appearing, from several persons of credit now out of Boston, that they have acted a friendly part, in several instances, to the great cause of liberty, and nothing appearing against them but only the Admiral's pass, without which, it is supposed, they could not get out of Boston with their vessels; and that Jonathan Carleton, mentioned also in said Memorial, and any others in the hands of our friends in said County of Lincoln, be discharged, if the Selectmen and Committees of Correspondence in those parts may judge it fit and proper, and consistent with the publick safety, otherwise to be kept in custody till further orders.

Joseph Palmer, Chairman  
Samuel Adams, Secretary

[Endorsed] In Council, August 15, 1775: Read and sent down. In the House of Representatives, August 18, 1775. Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 334-336, from Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 234.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Preston Boston 17 August 1775

I have received your Letter August 4 by Mr. Frazer, who returns in the *Spinckes* with your Provisions. I would much rather have you cruize than lie at Anchor constantly, and purpose relieving you, but the want of a Sloop to be at Newcastle has hitherto prevented it, and I am apprehensive that if the Harbour is left without a Kings Ship they will in her absence, though but for a Week, mount Cannon and hinder any Ships entering in future, which must be guarded against. I have only one more objection to your cruizing, and that is the situation of the Governor, who, by the Harbour being left without a Man of War, may consider himself exposed to the Resentment or evil design of the Rebels and to be left destitute of Protection.

If these can be obviated I will order you to cruize immediately, but I will certainly send the first Sloop I have to relieve you. Mr. Frazer has paid my share of the Freight of 1000 Dollars.

I observe what you say about Newbury; that place and all others indeed require to be strictly attended to, but where are the Ships? I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 174, 175, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE  
BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Preston Boston 17 August 1775

In my last Letter July 29 by Col. James I acquainted you that the *Falcon* was ordered to convoy the *Russia Merchant* Transport twenty Leagues to the Eastward of Cape Cod; Captain [John] Linzee accordingly sailed the 30th with Directions to cruize between Cape Ann and the Isle of Shoals to intercept Supplies of Ammunition and Provisions coming to the Rebels.

On the 10th. instant the *Falcon* anchored at Nantasket, and I received a Letter from Captain Linzee, (a Copy of which is inclosed) giving an Account of an unsuccessful attempt to take a large Schooner in Cape Ann Harbour and to destroy the Town, and that he was obliged to come away with the Loss of two Boats, his master Gunner, Sixteen Seamen and seven Marines taken Prisoners, and his Lieutenant wounded. It is so difficult to procure British Seamen that the Loss becomes considerable. At present they cannot be replaced with Europeans and experience shews Americans are not to be trusted.

In a former Letter I mentioned the Rebels having burnt the Wooden part of Boston Light house. The Governor ordered it be repaired immediately; Materials and Artificers were accordingly sent down, and at his request I ordered Lieut. Coulthurst and a Party of Marines from the *Preston* and *Boyne* for their Guard. The *Preston's* Long Boat also staid with them, and Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* at Nantasket had directions to give them all the assistance in his power, and to settle Signals to be made in case of danger. They had ex-

ceeded a week on this Duty and were to have been relieved on the 31st when to my great astonishment, I was informed they had been all cut off just after Day Light. The inclosed Account from the Midshipman who commanded the Long Boat will shew more particularly how this Affair happened. As the Light house Island with 30 men was judged capable of being defended against 1000, it was extremely unfortunate the Party of Marines made so little resistance, for in less than half an hour a great Reinforcement arrived: but I am sorry to say it appears to me the Party were intent only upon escaping, although the Marine Officer was at the Reduction of Belle Isle and accounted a brave and experienced Officer.

Captain [John] Robinson of the *Preston* happened the night of the 30th. to have the Boats of the Squadron endeavouring to get at and destroy some Whale Boats, secreted in a Wood near the Water Side; this Scheme failed, but he arrived time enough to chase the Whale Boats across the Lighthouse Channel to Hull Beach, from whence he brought away two of them and Lieut. Colthursts Body. Seven Artificers having got away from the Rebels, after being landed on the Main were brought off in one of the Boats, with Captain Robinson; Two more escaped in the Long Boat. But two wounded Marines out of the whole Party were not taken, one of whom is since dead of his Wounds.

The *Merlin* anchored the 2d instant in the Lighthouse Channel from a Cruize

On the 5th. his Majestys Ship *Fowey* arrived from Virginia and brought fifty two men for the Squadron, many of them very indifferent. I ordered Captain [George] Montagu to place his Ship between Charles Town and Boston, but I shall send her to Halifax as soon as I can put another in her place.

On the 6th. his Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* arrived with a Vessel having on board 20 head of Cattle seized in the Sound on the restraining Act. They have been since condemned in the Admiralty Court at Boston. By Captain George Montagu I received a Letter from Lord Dunmore Governor of Virginia (a Copy of which and of my Answer is inclosed) exhibiting complaints of a very serious nature against Captain [John] Macartney of his Majesty's Ship *Mercury* and referring me to Captain Montagu for Particulars. I inclose also Captain Montagu's upon my requiring him to inform me of such Facts relative to Captain Macartneys Misconduct as had come to his knowledge. Conceiving it therefore unsafe to the Command of his Majesty's Ship any longer with Captain Macartney I ordered the *Kingsfisher* to Virginia, and have sent Lieut. [Alexander] Graeme in her with Directions to put Captain Macartney in Arrest, and to bring the *Mercury* forthwith to Boston. The *Kingsfisher* accordingly sailed from hence the 14th instant.

A Tender belonging to the *Rose* came in the 6th instant, and I received from Captain [James] Wallace a Parcel of Rebel Letters taken from two Men who came lately from Philadelphia and were going in a Boat to Providence. I transmit Copies of three of them, the rest are chiefly written on domestick & trading subjects.

The *Merlin* sailed the 8th with a Transport carrying a part of the poor of Boston, and returned again the 16th with the Transport having landed them at Marblehead.

The *Canceaux* arrived from Halifax the 9th and sailed again the 17th. with the *Spinckes* Tender laden with provisions for the *Scarborough* at Piscatagua.

On the 11th I determined to send the *Somerset* to Halifax to stop her Leaks, and accordingly have given Captain [Edward] LeCras Orders to that purpose, and respecting the Security of the Yard and Stores while he remains there, and to return as soon as possible to Boston; but not to leave Halifax unless a 20 Gun Ship at least is in the Harbour. He now waits only for a Wind to put to Sea directly.

The Governor expressing his Uneasiness for the Safety of a Number of Transports sent to Gardiners and Fishers Islands for Cattle and other live Stock, I sent Captain [Thomas] Bishop in the *Lively* to cruize for them from Cape Cod to the Isle of Shoals. He returned the 15th with the whole Convoy, which has brought the Garrison a very good supply of Cattle and Sheep.

On the 11th instant I received a Letter from Lieut. [John] Knight, late Commander of his Majesty's Schooner *Diligent*, but now a prisoner at Cambridge. I inclose a Copy of his Letter, to which I can only say that Mr Knight must have been totally unacquainted with the disposition of the people at Mechias, and the fate of the *Margeuritta*, and apprehending no danger, had put in there as usual; but as I know of no good Service that could call him to Mechias, until his release and an enquiry is made into his Conduct, no true Judgement can be formed. In the mean time the Rebels having possession of the *Diligent* not only deprives the Squadron of her assistance, but will I fear for some time hinder the publication of such of Mr Des Barres Draughts as wait only for the Soundings.

I have appointed the Honorable Mr [John] Tollemache to be Captain of the *Scorpion* by Commission dated 29th July, and Mr James Drew of the *Preston* Lieutenant in his room. This Sloop is nearly ready for Sea and I intend to send her to relieve the *Cruizer* at North Carolina, and that both the *Cruizer* and *Tamer* shall forthwith come to Boston. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 175-183, MassHS Transcript.

#### MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Thursday 17th August, 1775

*Voted*, That an order be drawn on Pay-Table Committee for £200. in favor of Benj. Huntington Esqr. and Cap. Jno. Deshon, to pay the purchase of the schooner *Britania*, for the use of the Colony as an arm'd and intelligence vessel, which this Council had judged most for the benefit of the Colony to purchase at that price, and appointed said committee to purchase of Edward Hancox Jno. Denison 5th &c., of Stonington, and which they have done accordingly. *And orders drawn accordingly by me as clerk the next day.*

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 120.

*New York Journal*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1775

New York, August 17.

The following is the best account we are able to collect, of the late Expedition of the Piratical Regular Traitors to the English Constitution, and the British Colonies, in plundering, Fisher's Gardner's, Plum and Block Islands, of Stock Provision, &c.

The Design of the Regulars, to plunder these islands, having been communicated to the Inhabitants and Proprietors by the Congress of New York, and other Intelligences, as early as Tuesday the 8th, there was Time to have taken off all the Stock; and some was actually taken off: But some Differences having arisen between the Proprietors and the Committees, concerning the Expence of the Business, before any Thing could be determined, the Ships of the Enemy appeared in Sight – Dispatches were immediately sent to alarm and assemble the People on the Connecticut and Long-Island Shores, who, notwithstanding the utmost haste they could then make, were too late to prevent the Execution of the Fellonious Design of the Enemy; who on Friday the 11th, approached Gardner's Island, with the following Vessels and Forces, viz. 7 Transport Ships, 2 Brigs, 2 Men of War, 1 Snow of 10 Guns, 1 Armed Schooner of 17 Men and 200 Regulars, as reported by the Sailors, landed on the Island and assisted by 10 villanous Tories from South Hold, &c. took off the following Stock, &c.

By the account of Benjamin Millar, the Overseer,

1000 Sheep  
 30 Hogs  
 13 Geese,  
 3 Calves,  
 1000 lb. Cheese

7 Tons Hay were taken off, and much Damage done to Gardens, Fences, Fowls, &c. When they went away, they left on the Table Half a Guinea and a Pistareen.

Signed by Benjamin Miller. And attested.

The following Letter was left by the Commanding Officer, and gives Reason to suspect that the Expedition (as to Gardiner's Island) was preconcerted with the Proprietor, or Manager. – The following is an exact Copy, viz.

“Sir: As we have got loaded all the Vessels, I can't come to your House, according to Promise, I send you Account of what I have got off your Island; Sheep, 823; Fat Cattle, 59; Cows, 3; Calves, 3; one of the Calves got away; The Cheese I will take Account of. – Send me some Pigs, Fowls and Potatoes, and Ducks, and some Bread; and when you come to Boston, I will secure your Interest to you if in my power. I am very sorry it is not in my Power to come to your House, but so good a Wind we can't stay; the Hay you must send an Account of by Capt. Lawrence. Sir, I am your's,

Abijah Willant

Aug. 11th, 1775, 12 o'Clock at Night."

Besides the fore mentioned Stock from Gardiner's Island, we are informed that the same Crew of Free Booters, took from Fisher's Island 26 Fat Cattle; and about 1000 Sheep; also from Plumb Island, 14 Fat Cattle: At this last Island they had only one Prize Wood Boat and a Transport Brig. On their arrival and landing on one Side of the Island, they were fired upon by about 100 of Col. [David] Wooster's Provincials, who had landed on the other Side. But it being represented to the Commanding Officer, that the Island was nearly surrounded by a Number of the Enemy's armed Vessels who would be likely to cut off their Retreat, they fired but one Volley, which did not appear to have done any Execution, and then retired to the main Land, when the 14 Cattle were taken off.

After these Exploits, 3 more Transports appearing in Sight, on Tuesday Morning [August 8] the *Rose* and the *Swan*, Sloops of War, sailed to meet them, in order to make a Descent upon, and Plunder Block Island; the Success of which Attempt we have not yet heard.

It is the Opinion of good Judges, that only 200 Provincial Soldiers well posted on either of these Islands, would have repelled the Attack made upon it by the Regulars.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philadelphia August 17th 1775

The Committee of Safety for this City & Province being informed on Saturday last [August 12], that a Ship from Cork had come up to Gloucester with some passengers, Officers of the Ministerial Army, and a quantity of Cloathing for that Army at Boston, immediately sent down Capt [Thomas] Bradford with thirty Men to take those officers prisoners, and at the same time an Armed Boat, to bring up the Cloathing, both which orders were accordingly executed. The Officers we have enlarged upon their written Parole, to render themselves at your Camp; and two Soldiers taken with them, being their Servants, on the Parole of Major [Christopher] French the Principal Officer, Copies of which Paroles are enclosed. The Major requested when he signed the Parole that we would for his Justification give him a Certificate of his making a Claim in behalf of himself & the others, and that his Claim was not admitted. We gratified him in this, and a Copy of our Certificate is Also enclosed. They were allowed to take with them their own Baggage, but the Baggage of some other Officers now in Boston, which he also requested, was refused, on account of the detention of the Effects of our Friends there by General [Thomas] Gage. So this Baggage with the Cloathing (an Invoice whereof is also enclosed.) which we understand is for two Regiments, is stored, to remain for the Direction and disposition of the Congress. The Officers & Soldiers are to set out for your Camp on Tuesday the 22nd inst accompanied by two Respectable Gentlemen of this City Capt [James] Willing and Capt Wharton, whom we beg leave to recommend to your notice, who will protect the Officers on the Road & forward their Journey.

No more Gunpowder is yet arrived here. On the 10th Instant we sent 2200 wt to General [Philip] Schuyler, which was all we could possibly spare, With great Esteem &c.

B Franklin, Presidt

P.S. with this you will also receive a packet directed to an officer of The Ministerial Army, which we have not open'd, but submit it to your discretion.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY  
CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 17. Ditto [squally] weather. Our Express arrived from Charlestown, and brought with him, a detachment of artillery, in order to escort the gunpowder to Charlestown.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Savannah in Georgia the 17th of Augt 1775

No. 57 We have received an Account here that an Armed Vessell or two, fitted out from Charles Town Proceeded to the Bar of St. Augustine and there met with a Vessell Bound to that Port, which had a great Quantity of Gun Powder and King's Stores on Board, part of which had been sent on shore but that they took out of her 15,000 weight of the Gun Powder which they had Landed Safe at Beaufort Port Royal South Carolina.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 206-209; from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

No. 22 [Bermuda] August the 17 - 1775

My Lord In the night of the 14th. Instant August, when almost a Sufficient Number of Members of Assembly to make an House were come to Town Agreeable to Adjournment, I had less Suspicion than before, that such a daring and violent Attempt would be made on the Powder Magazine. which in the dead of the night of the 14th of August was broke into on Top, just to let a man down, and the Doors most Audaciously and daringly forced open, at the great risk of their being blown up; they could not force the Powder Room Door, without getting into the inside on Top They Stole and Carried off about one Hundred Barrels of Gun powder, and as they left about ten or twelve Barrels, it may be Supposed that those Barrels left, would not bare remooving. It must have taken a Considerable number of People; and we may Suppose some Negroes, to assist as well as White Persons of consequence On Wednesday the 16 Instant (of August,) the Legislative Body, Voted one Hundred pounds Sterling Reward, to any Person or Per-

sons, that shall make any discovery, and legally convict any of the perpetrators of this Audacious peice of Villany.

And I have offered His Majesteys most gracious pardon to any One Person, that shall make any Discovery of any Person or Persons so that they be legally Convicted of this most heinous Crime, and a further Reward of thirty pounds out of my own purse, All which was immediately offered by Proclamation.

And likewise thirty Dollars, or ten pounds Currency, I have offered to be paid to any Negro, or Negroes, to inform against any other Negro or Negroes, that were aiding and assisting so that they be legally Convicted.

The next morning the 15th Instant, (of August) one Sloop Called the *Lady Catharine*, belonging by Her Register to Virginia, George Ord Master, bound to Philadelphia, was seen under Sail, but the Custom House Boat could not over take Her.

And likewise a Skooner Called the *Charles Town and Savannah Packet*, belonging to South Carolina, from South Carolina Cleared out at Bermuda the 11th of August with 2,000 Sawed Stones for Barbados John Turner Master. And was seen under Sail the same day, at such a Distance off, that the Custom House Boat could not over take either of the Vessels.

It may be supposed that neither of the vessels came near the Shore, to take in the Powder, if they did carry it away, but it is rather to be imagined that it must have been Carried out by Several Boats, as both these Vessels, Sailed from a Harbour at the West End, twenty Miles off, of the Magazine. I shall despatch these by the very first Conveyance I can get, which will be extremely difficult as the minds of the People are very much poisoned, Since they Chose Delegates, and some People from Carolina, and Philadelphia, have Corresponded and visited these Islands.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

P S I hope some of His Majestys Sloops of War will arrive soon, I shall contrive all ways and means, to Convey intelligence to them, of my Dismal Situation, as I have given hints to Your Lordship before, if all the Letters have not been intercepted. Your Lordship will receive Some by the little *Porgy* Allen Kirkpatrick Master.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

THOMAS JARVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ANTIGUA, TO VICE ADMIRAL  
JAMES YOUNG<sup>1</sup>

Sr. St John's Council Chamber 17th Augt 1775

This Day I had the honor to lay before the Council of this His Majestys Island of Antigua your Letter of the 14th Inst dated from on board the *Portland* at English Harbour.

The Council gives full Credit to the information made to you of the No Americans offering at the Dutch, Danish & French Islands in these Seas unlimited prices for Ammunition & Warlike Stores & they do not doubt but many of the No

Americans who Trade to the Island would purchase powder &c for the Service of their Countrymen if such Stores were to be got at

The Council have no intimation of the Warlike Stores supposed to be in great quantities in the possession of private Adventurers & flatter themselves that this peice of information is without foundation; they will use their best endeavours to investigate the truth, & will with all their powers discourage a Trade dishonorable in itself & ruinous to the Community they however beg leave to inform you that they have no authority to prevent the buying & selling of Merchandize which hath been fairly imported & would advise an Application to the Commander in Chief of these Islands for a proclamation to restrain the selling of Powder & other Warlike Stores to the No American Traders I am &c

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Jarvis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

**18 Aug.**

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Halifax August 18th 1775.

Sir I have by this Conveyance sent you the result of his Majesty's Council upon the present Circumstances of the Colony upon a Supposed intended Invasion; the Americans may project an Invasion for several purposes, to deprive the Armies from any supplies from hence, to possess themselves of the Military Stores here, among which are near 300 pieces of Cannon, Serviceable & unserviceable, but perhaps principally to destroy his Majesty's Naval Yard.

I am of Opinion that at present the most effectual method of securing the Military Small Stores, with the Powder, will be to put them on Board some Small Vessels to lay under the protection of the *Tartar*, till Transports can be sent & employed for that purpose, & shall accordingly put it in practice. I am also of a Opinion that some place of defence should be made by Block Houses, & Picketts for the securing the Cannon, & that the Citadel Hill would be the most proper Place for such defence which I apprehend may be done at no great expence.

That this precaution if put into Execution would not only defeat the purposes & designs of the Rebels, but upon their receiving Advice of such works being erected, it would even prevent their Attempting it.

I am Obliged at this time to desire of your Excellency that the Troops here may be exchanged for others who may be Obedient to such Orders as it will be necessary for me to give, for the defence & Protection of this Province, more especially as I have great reason to believe that the militia here is not to be Depended upon, & we have many of them inimical to the measures of Government & perhaps might be rather aiding to destroy than preserve the Stores & Magazines here.

Captain [Edward] Meadows is so apprehensive of the insecurity of the Yard that he had Signified to the Council his readiness to go into the Bay of Fundy, yet upon some more weighty Consideration is of Opinion that his Ships Stay here at present is immediately Necessary for its protection. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Friday, August 18, 1775

Caleb Cushing, Esq., brought down the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian.

Afternoon

John Whitcomb, Esq. brought down the Petition of Josiah Jones, a Prisoner in Concord Jail, setting forth, that "having been obnoxious to the jealousy of his fellow-countrymen," he was taken prisoner at Cape Corpus, and brought to the Provincial Congress, by whom he was sent to the Jail aforesaid, and praying this Court to take his case into consideration, &c., with the following order of Council thereon, viz:

In Council, August 15, 1775

Resolved, That Samuel Adams, Thomas Cushing, Benjamin Lincoln, and Moses Gill, Esquires, with such as the honourable House shall join, be a committee to take this Petition into consideration, and report.

Ordered, That Colonel Cushing, Colonel Thompson, and Major Brooks, be a Committee to consider the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian, and report.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 338-342, from Mass. Arch.

JAMES OTIS TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Watertown August 18th 1775

Involved as we are in the Calamities of an unjust and cruel War, and Numerous the difficulties, we have to Struggle with in Consequence of it, we are as yet to Acknowledge with Gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all Events the many Signal appearances of Divine providence in our favour. In the frequent Encounters we have had with our Unnatural Enemies upon our Coasts, they have in almost every Instance been disappointed and defeated, and many of them have fallen into our hands. Yet this very circumstance has added to the Number of our difficulties. Most of the Goals in this Colony are already so Crowded with them, that they can hardly contain them all. We therefore request of your Honor that we may send some of our prisoners into your Colony, and that you will be pleased to inform us what places you think proper to assign for the reception of them. As the Cause we are engaged in, is the Common cause of the Colonies, we Cannot entertain a doubt of your ready compliance with our request.—

In the Name & behalf of the Major part of the Council, I have the Honor to be very respectfully Sir [&c.]

James Otis President

P.S. We inclose a Resolve lately passed by the General Court of this Colony, respecting the restraint of Vessells bound on Whaling voyages; which, as this

Court think is a matter of great importance, they recommend to the Consideration of your Assembly

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 268, 269.

COMMISSION OF JOB WILLIAMS TO COMMAND CUSTOMS SCHOONER *Sophia*<sup>1</sup>

To all people to whom these presents shall come.

We the Commissioners for managing & causing to be Levied His Majesty's Customs & other Duties in America Do hereby Depute and Impower Mr Job Williams to be Commander of the Schooner *Sophia* in the Service of His Majesty's Customs to Seize Prohibited and Uncustomed Goods.

By virtue whereof He hath power to enter into any Ship Bottom Boat or other Vessel & also in the day time with a Writ of Assistance granted by his Majesty's Superior or supreme Court of Justice and taking with him a Constable, Headborough or other public Officer next inhabiting, to enter into any House, Shop, Cellar, Warehouse or other place whatsoever not only within the said Port but within any other Port or place within our Jurisdiction there to make diligent Search and in case of resistance to break open any Door, Trunk, Chest, Case, Pack, Truss or any other parcel or package whatsoever for any Goods, Wares or Merchandize prohibited to be exported out of or imported into the said Port, or whereof the Customs or other Duties have not been duly paid. And the same to seize to his Majesty's use and to put and secure the same in the Warehouse in the Port next to the Place of Seizure. In all which Premises He is to proceed in such manner as the Law directs. Hereby praying & requiring all and every His Majesty's Officers & Ministers & all others whom it may concern to be aiding & assisting to Him in all things as herewith Given under our hands and Seal at the Custom House Boston this Eighteenth day of August in the Fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord KING GEORGE the Third and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy five

W<sup>m</sup> Burch Hen Hulton Benj Hallowell

[Endorsed] Security is given in the sum of Five hundred pounds

Rich Reeve Secretary

[2d endorsement] This is to Certify that the Oath of Office has been Administered to the within named Job Williams before the Commissioners of the Customs this 18 day of August 1775

1. Winslow Papers, DAC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

August 1775 in Tarpawline Bay

Friday 18 At Day Break Saw A No of Armed Rebels Abreast the Ship fired 21 Guns to Disperse the Rebels At 4 A M Came to Sl P M Empd working into Rhode Isld Harbour At 3 Anchored wth B.Br in 16 fm

1. PRO, Admiralty, Class 51, 506.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR RHODE ISLAND  
TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

On his Majesty's Service

Having delivered His Majesty's ships under your command all the Provision I had in Store (except some Pork & Carolina Pease) and have made every attempt in my reach which appeared Practicable for Procuring farther Supplies from the Neighbouring Colonies but without Success as the agents in those colonies have not been Permitted to ship me any – nor can I purchase any in Town – all commercial Intercourse by act of Parliament being cut of[f] with our Neighbouring colonies from whence my Supplies have ever been drawn – & no expectation of a timely alteration – It is therefore for those reasons out of my Power any longer to furnish His Majestys ships under your command with Provisions – except the Pork and Pease in Store – I am very respectfully

Sr [&c.]

Chris Champlin

Newport Aug. 18th 1775

[To] Commr of His Majestys Ships of Warr at Rhode Island

1. Peck Mss., III, 46, RIHS.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO A.M. August, 18th 1775.

The report of the committee of the city and county of New-York, of their inquiry relating to the destroying of the boat lately ordered to be built for His Majesty's ship *Asia*, was read and filed.

The said committee reports the names of a number of witnesses by them examined, and the substance of the examinations of the said witnesses whereby it appears that the said committee could not discover any of the persons who were concerned in destroying the same boat.

Ordered, That Mr. [Jacobus] VanZandt and Mr. [Isaac] Sears employ two prime sailing boats, with proper persons, to go to the eastward, to observe if they can discover any fleet steering towards the westward. That Mr. VanZandt and Mr. Sears direct the masters of such boats as they may employ, to give the speediest intelligence to this Congress of any fleet they may discover; and give them such other directions as they may think proper.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That the fortifications formerly ordered by the Continental Congress, and reported by a committee of this Congress, as proper to be built on the banks of Hudson's River, in the Highlands, be immediately erected.

Mr. Walton dissents.

And that Mr. Isaac Sears, Mr. John Berrien, Col. Edward Fleming, Mr. Anthony Rutgers and Mr. Christopher Millem, be commissioners to manage the erecting and finishing the said fortifications. That any three or more of them be empowered to act, manage and direct the building and finishing thereof.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 110, 111.

HIS MAJESTY'S OFFICERS FOR THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT TO  
ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Annapolis 18th. Aug 1775

In answer to the Letter Your Excellency was pleased to write to Us the 12th Instant, respecting the Ship *Totness* Capt. Warren, which was lately destroyed about Twelve Miles below this Place. We can only report to your Excellency, from hearsay, that the Vessel being bound from Liverpool to Baltimore with a Cargo of Salt and other Articles on Board, run on Shore in the Night of the 9th or 10th of last Month on a Shoal, near some Islands called the three Sisters, where She lay several Days without the Master taking any Measures to get off by lightening Her. The second or third Day after she had remained in such Situation, some Gentlemen, who had been chosen by the Inhabitants of that part of the Province to see that the Association relative to the Non-Importation of Goods from Great Britain should be strictly observed, went on Board, asked the Master some Questions about his Cargo, & Destination of his Vessel; & being assured by him that it was not his Intention to land any of his Cargo there – They did not interfere further but consented to his proceeding to Baltimore if He should think fit to do so. The ship continuing aground some Days afterwards, & no Steps being taken by the Master to get her off, many People at different times went on Board, & a Report was spread that there were many other Goods than the Master had acknowledged to the Committee, & that He was not solicitous to get his Vessel off or to proceed to any other Place. It likewise became a Subject of Conversation that this was the Third Ship which Mr Gildart of Liverpoole had sent thence, loaded to this Province, after He had been apprized of the Association, & that some Persons from Liverpool had declared he avowed a Resolution to pay no Regard to it. Such Discourses having made an Impression on a Number of young People who live in the Neighbourhood, They went on Board, and after advising the Master & Crew, to take out such things as were their own private Property set Her on Fire; but we have not yet been able to learn certainly who the Persons were that committed such Outrage, nor did the Master or any of the Crew come to, or pass thro this Place, so as to give either of Us an Opportunity of asking them any Questions. Had not the Vessel been unluckily run ashore, the Master wd probably have been ordered back from Baltimore, without landing the Cargo; but we do not think any Attempt would have been made either there or in this Place to destroy Her, unless Goods had been landed; in which Case she would not, We apprehend, have been in safety any where in this or either of the Neighbouring Provinces.

We are with real Respect Your Excellency's [&c.]

Bened<sup>t</sup> Calvert Collr John Ridout Navl Off W<sup>m</sup> Eddis Surveyr

1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1775

Williamsburg, August 18.

From unquestionable authority we can assure the publick that forty tuns of Gunpowder have been lately imported into Philadelphia, six tuns and a half

of which were sent to the continental camp, and one ton to Virginia; also, that the colonies may depend upon a constant supply of that very useful commodity, at this juncture.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP, *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775 [Port Royal harbor]

Aug. 18. Received on board of the *Success*, ninety-one barrels of powder, and got in readiness to sail. At 10 A.M. Captain Cattell arrived in town with 60 men of the Provincials, and offered to join us to protect the gunpowder, which we accepted of.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I, 337.

19 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Halifax August 19th 1775.

My Lord As the affairs in America are become more & more interesting, I thought it my indispensable Duty to inform your Lordship of the Critical Situation this Colony is in at present the Troops in Boston are confined to very narrow limits being now surrounded by the Rebels with an Army Consisting by the last Accounts of 19,750 men, Intrenched & Cannot be attacked without Sustaining such losses as at present would be unbearable. The last Attack at Charlestown tho' a Victory was gained it was purchased with the loss of a Thousand of the best Troops killed & wounded; & such another Victory would put it out of the Power of the Kings Troops to act but on the defensive part; their cutting off all communication with the Country leaves the Troops destitute of having any supplies but from the Province of Nova Scotia who do not abound, but a Quantity has been sent, and more ready to Sail but have been prevented from Vessels fitted out in the Eastern Coasts of New England Cruizing in the Bay. It seems the Supply of Provision for the Army from Nova Scotia has enraged the Americans throughout & they have marked us out as objects of their Resentment. I am well informed by Captain [William] Doddington of the *Senegal*, who was at Penobscott with four Transports taking in Wood for the Supply of the Troops, & from whence he was obliged to remove to this place to compleat their loading, that there were four Armed Vessels but they kept in Shoal Waters out of his reach he was informed by one of the Inhabitants that they had 700 Men Armed and prepared in that Bay, & that 900 men were Assembled at Casco Bay under Colonel [Jedediah] Prebble, and by advices since my last from Machias it appears without doubt that they are meditating an Attempt against this Province.

I cannot but observe to your Lordship, the great importance I conceive the preserving this Province will be to his Majesty's Interests in America, the only Port where Ships can be cleaned & have a Supply of Masts & other Timber; all other resource in America being entirely at an end, & where the Troops can retreat should that happen to be the case, but is at present the only place from whence they can be supplied with any kind of refreshments for which the Army at

present suffer greatly for want of the Vessels which have been loaded these three weeks & dare not depart.

Upon all these Considerations my Lord, I think it absolutely Necessary that Fortifications for the Security of the Naval Yard, the protection of the Magazine in the Town Cannon & other Military Stores shou'd be erected for I conceive that the Magazines when thus protected will be the only safe place in America for their Deposit.

I must inform your Lordship that there is not the least kind of defence about the Town, we lay open to the Country on every side, that the Batteries are dismantled the Carriages of the Guns all decayed & they lying on the Ground. I am [&c.]

Fran<sup>s</sup> Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

MARBLEHEAD COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Marblehead, Augst 19th 1775

In answer to yours of the 17th instant, which we receive very kindly, as an Instance of your friendship. we are sensible of the Justness of your remark, that at this distressing time in a special manner, nothing can be of more Importance for the general good of the Country, than the Union of the whole; & that the prosperity and happiness of every Town, is dependant very much, upon the peace & good order subsisting among them; so also, the friendly Intercourse with our Neighbours, is of publick Utility. We therefore would with great Regret, Inform you, that we are Sorry, any of our Members have given you, or the publick in general, any cause of Jealousy or Complai[nt] this we are satisfied, has proceeded from an Error in Judgment, and not from any design inimical to the publick good. — Facts ever ought to be rightly stated, which we would do as far as comes to our knowledge. You are sensible that when the *Merlin* lay in Your harbour, Capt [William C.] Barneby [Burnaby] stopt several of our Boats, & confined some of our Men on board, their friends Applied to Capt [James] Mugford, as he had some acquaintance with the said Captain to assist them in geting them discharged, (it being in the Evening) he without applying to our Committee, and being Concerned for the welfare of Individuals, we think, too precipitately assisted some of the Officers, this part of his conduct we do not Approve of; but impute it as above to Error in judgment; But do affirm, that he has, by his readiness at all times, to serve the publick Interest of America, manifested himself, to be a real Friend to his Country; and we still Esteem him to be such: — The Commanders of the Troops stationed here, received no special Orders from General Washington, but since the affair above, our Committee of Correspondence have directed such watches, as they apprehend, will prevent any cause of complaint from our Friends, as to any Concern wth any Man of War that may for the future come into our Harbour. As we ever have endeavoured to promote every thing that tended to the good of America, and discountenance all that might be detrimental to the Cause in dispute, so we ever shall, And shall ever esteem your friendship as a favour

We are with Esteem & Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Signed by Order of the Committee of Safety at Marblehead

Edward Fettyplace Chairman P.T.

W<sup>m</sup> Williams Clerk

1. Pickering Mss., 17, 15, MassHS.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Preston Boston 19 August 1775

By the Transport lately arrived with Cattle and Sheep Captain [James] Wallace informs me that Intelligence being sent to him of the Rebels taking the Stock off the Islands he weighed with the *Swan* from Rhode Island in the Afternoon of the 5th instant and then run them to Fishers Island the same night, where the Rebels had taken away fifteen head of Cattle; however the Transports got a supply there. The next day he convoyed them to Gardiners Island and having cleared the Coast of every Interruption and left the Transports in quiet possession, he returned to Rhode Island, from whence the Service does not admit of his being long absent: he acquaints me the *Glasgow* had not yet joined him.

His Majesty's Sloop *Senegal* arrived at Halifax the 4th instant with the Transports under her Convoy sent to get Fuel in Penobscot Bay. By a Letter from Captain [William] Dudingstone dated the 7th instant I find that he continued peaceably at Long Island from the 16th to the 25th of last Month, when he was informed a Colonel [James] Cargill with 7 or 8 hundred men, assisted with three large Sloops also full of men were preparing to attack the Transports and prevent their having any more Wood. The Sloops Captain Dudingstone says he saw with Flags at their Mast Heads and chased them. Capt. Dudingstone also writes that Mr Winslow, who was charged with the Business of procuring Wood, assured him the Sloops he had chased had already destroyed Penobscot Fort, and that as the Country people were disposed, it would be impossible for the Transports to complete their Lading there, or in any other part of New England, and proposed going to Halifax. Captain Dudingstone consented as the most likely method to succeed.

They accordingly proceeded to Halifax, and I find will get as much Wood as they can take on board.

I inclose a Copy of an Affidavit sent me by Governor [Francis] Legge, which I do purposely to assure you that only what relates to his Majesty's Schooner *Diligent*, and the Philadelphian Sloop, is true. It is even suspected that the Philadelphian was intended for Mechias and not for Halifax, and the Story of her being taken, like many other false Reports, is calculated to serve a particular purpose.

The ostensible Reason given by the Rebels for an Expedition to Nova Scotia is to prevent our having Supplies of fresh provisions, but there is no doubt that their principal Object is the destruction of the King's Stores at Halifax. I shall endeavour to defeat their Designs by keeping a good force on the Coast and in the Harbour, and to render the Navigation between it and Boston perfectly secure.

I inclose a Copy of a Letter from Governor Legge for your further information on this Subject.

In the King's Yard an Officer's Guard of Marines is constantly on Duty with three Watchmen at Night well equipped, beside a Patrole from eight in the Evening until four in the Morning: And every other precaution is taken to prevent Losses by Fire or Thieves. The Naval Officer acquaints me he has not been able to trace whether the last fire was occasioned through accident or design, but is inclined to think from Accident, as there has been formerly some Pilferings from the Paint Pots; and that finding he can get privately no satisfactory Information he intends to advertize and offer a large Reward for the discovery of the perpetrators.

The *Halifax* Schooner is by this time ready and sails for Boston immediately. The *Hinchinbrook* is also in great forwardness. The Store Ship is not yet arrived but much wanted.

Eighteen Sail of Transport under Convoy of the *Merlin* and *Falcon* are going for forage and Cattle to Annapolis, Windsor and Cumberland harbour in the Bay of Fundy. They will sail the beginning of next Week, and there will then remain in this Harbour the *Preston*, *Boyne*, *Lively* and *Fowey* with the Bolton Brig who will be fit for Sea in a Fortnight.

Our sole reliance for Stores and provisions is likely to be on what comes from England. I hope a further Supply is ordered and that the Transports will arrive before the end of December.

We have no Accounts from England later than the 8th June, but are every hour expecting the arrival of some of his Majesty's Ships. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 183-186, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Preston* Boston August 19, 1775

I inclose a Copy of the Letter delivered to me the 16th inst by the Agent to the Contractors for supplying provisions to his Majesty's Ships at Boston, Rhode Island, Halifax and Quebec. The Contract has been some time without Beef and Peas, yesterday Rum could not be furnished, and, as the other Species of Provisions will also be very soon exhausted, our entire dependence for Supplies in future must be on Great Britain. I am in daily expectation of hearing the Contracts to the Southward are either incapable of providing for the Kings Ships, or are absolutely forbidden to do it by the Congress.

The Commissioners of the Victualling have advised me of four Victuallers being sent with Provisions for the Squadron. Three of them are arrived, vizt The *Trident*, *Richmond* and *Fortitude*; the *Friendship* is missing.

Great part of the Beef, Flower, Suet, Raisins and Brandy is already issued to the Squadron from the *Trident*. The *Fortitude* I have ordered to Halifax under Convoy of the *Somerset*. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 186, 187, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO FOUR BOSTON MERCHANTS <sup>1</sup>

Province of } Thomas Gage Esq. Governour of said Province and Lieu-  
 Massachusetts Bay } tenant General & Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's  
 land Forces in North America. – To Geo Erving, Danl  
 Hubbard, Wm Taylor, Geo Brinley Merchts, Greeting

Whereas an open and unnatural Rebellion is now existing in & throughout the province aforesaid, as well as in many other parts of the British Colonies, in consequence whereof great multitudes of Armed Rebels & Traitors have in an open hostile manner surrounded the Town of Boston, where many of His Majesty's forces under my Command are posted, & for many weeks past cut off all Communication between the Town of Boston & the adjacent Country & by force have prevented all supplies of provisions for said Town – In Consideration whereof I do adjudge it to be necessary for promoting His Majesty's Service to purchase at an equitable price, whenever it may be in my power, such a quantity of Corn, Flour and other provisions as may be sufficient to guard against the Hostile attempts of such Rebels and Traitors. – And whereas there is now laden on board the Ship *Charming Peggy*, lying in Boston Harbour owned by Keppell & Steinmetz of Philadelphia Merchants, Two Thousand one hundred & seventy three Barrels of Flour and forty four half barrels of Flour, which said Flour for the Reason before mentioned, I find it necessary to take for his Majesty's service, and being willing and desirous to indemnify the owners, by allowing them such a price for the same as in the Judgment of indifferent and discreet men shall be thought reasonable; Trusting therefore in your faithfulness and discretion, I do hereby appoint and authorize you the before named appraisers, to appraise the true value of the said flour, you being first duly sworn before a Magistrate to act herein without favour or partiality, according to your best skill and judgment <sup>2</sup> And you are to make return of your doings herein with myself as soon as may be

Given under my Hand and Seal at

Boston this 19th Day of August

Anno Dom: 1775

1. Rev. War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–87, NA.

2. The four merchants made oath they would act without favoritism or partiality, upon Aug. 21, 1775, and a day later reported to Gage: "We the Subscribers have examined divers samples of the Flour belonging to the Cargo of the Ship *Charming Peggy* and are of opinion that the whole is worth eighteen shillings Law[ful] Mo[n]e[y] per hund[red] w[eigh]t, provided the quality of the other part of the Cargo is equal to the Samples produced – rating Exchange at 15 PrCt below parr." *Ibid.* The *Charming Peggy*, Thomas Dowman, master, had sailed from Philadelphia for Lisbon about July 15, 1775, and had been taken off Cape Ann on July 25, by H.M.S. *Glasgow*, and sent into Boston.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Boston 19. August 1775.

The letters which I wrote to Admiral [Samuel] Graves between the 3d & 20th July, respecting my grass on Gallop's island and the conversation had on that subject prior to the 11th instant, I have already taken leave to lay before

your Excellency and complained of that Gentleman's detaining from me my property. and being very desirous to hear from Admiral Graves himself why he persisted in such detention I did on that day ask him his reasons why he refused answering my Letters wrote to him on that business. And as various reports and representations of this Matter have been made I must beg leave to enclose to your Excellency a Narrative of what passed between the Admiral and myself on the said 11th instant.<sup>2</sup> And I can and will answer for the truth of what I have related in every particular instance the case sir, I hope will speak for itself and I flatter myself that so far as it is in your Excellency's power I shall have justice done me. I am Sir [&c.]

Benj Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

2. See Hallowell to Gage, Aug. 12, 1775.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON, ASSISTANT DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER  
GENERAL, TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston August. 19th 1775 –

The Ship *Charming Nancy* being detained till tomorrow Morning Early, when she will Certainly Sail, gives Me the oppertunity of writing you another letter besides mine of the 11th Instt

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that our fleet that went to look out for live Stock is returned, and have brought in with them 1900 Sheep 103 Black Cattle 110 Cord of Wood a few Piggs and some Poultry which has put us all in good Spirits, as our Sick will be well supplied for some time, and we can aford to Issue fresh Provision to the troops two days in the Week for some Weeks to come; The General has opened the Port for all Vessells that will come with Provisions or Fuel, wch we hope will encourage many to come from the Eastward, the Men of War have brought in several Ships loaded with flouer bound to Europe, which, is unloaded here, and the Owners get a Reasonable price for it in bills on the Treasury, we shall therefore be in no want of that necessary Article, and two days ago the two Ships sent wth [Colonel Richard] Prescott to Quebec returned with a large Supply of Salt beef, Pork, and Eight Hundd barrells of flouer, a Quantity of Oates and Intrenching tools which were much Wanted, Gamble has wrote Sherrieff a long letter out of which I have taken the Inclosed Paragraph, by which you may form some Judgement as to the disposition of the Canadians, but as I have Extracted this Paragraph without anybodys knowledge, I beg you will keep the intelligence therein to yr Self, or at least not let it be known from whence it comes to you, I also send you under the same Confidence Copys of Letters that pass'd a few days ago between Washington and General [Thomas] Gage.

On Tuesday night last [August 15] the Rebels threw up a Battery with 4 Ambrasurs on the hill to the right of the burying ground at Roxbury, and next Morning fired two shots from One Gun Into our lines, which we returned, but it did not seem to disconcert them much as they Continued to Work hard to Compleat it, which they have Effectuated. On Thursday Morning we discovered another Battery of 6 Ambrasers in the Orchard to the left of Roxbury Just behind where the George tavern Stood, and a line drawn aCrose the Road between the two

Batterys, it seems to be rather a defencive that Offensive Work, and our Artillery say they can soon dismount their Guns by a superior fire shou'd they begin to Cannonaid. General How[e] has fortified the hill at Charlestown in such a Manner as will prevent their daring to insult him, and we are dayly Strengthening the lines, and Wharfs opposite to Dorchester Neck. and have Bartons Point and all that Shore well defenced by incampments & brest Works We still remain in doubt what is intended from home. not a ship from thence since you left us, nor have we heard from New York as yet. We are drolly Situated totally neglected by all the rest of the World.

About ten days ago Mr [Benjamin] Hallawell the Commissioner and the Admiral had a Skuffle, opposite Mr Brantones house. It seems Mr Hallawell had wrote a letter some time ago, relative to some Hay the Admiral had taken from Mr Hallawells farm, on one of the Islands. wch letter the Admiral did not Answer being (as he the Admiral says) wrote in disrespectful stile, when Mr Hallawell met him he asked him, the reason he had not Answered his letter, the Admiral replied he did not Chuse it, as it was wrote in an Improper stile, the other said he was a Gentleman and intituled to an Answer and by God he wou'd be treated as such, the Admiral said again, he wou'd never Answer that letter upon which Hallawell came close up to him & told him he was a damed Rascall, upon which the Admiral gave him a back handed Stroke in the face, that knocked him down, and then steped back and drew his Sword half out, but on perseiving that Hallawell was not Armed, he put it up. Hallawell then closed with him, struck the Admiral and in the Scuffle drew the Admirals Sword and snaped it in two peices, upon this Dunkin and some other people that were near rushed in, and Separated them. thus ended this bloody [Unfinished]

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, AUG. 19 [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

Since my last we have had every day more or less firing on the Charlestown side, but without much damage on either part. We have been very quiet all night, and have had little disturbance through the day, till last Friday, when the following battle royal in the streets drew all our attention, and has since engrossed all our conversation. – Mr. [Benjamin] Hallowell, a Commissioner of the Customs, had written four letters to Admiral [Samuel] Greaves. The subject of these letters was, it is said, an expostulation with the Admiral for taking forcibly, for his own use, one half of a quantity of hay, purchased by the Commission on some of the islands, for allowing the other half to pass. The Commissioner meeting the Admiral in Milk-street, who had never thought proper to answer any of his letters, stopped and enquired, why that notice had not been taken of his letters, which he, as a Gentleman, had a right to expect? To this civil question, the Admiral replied in his usual style; and while the Commissioner was whispering a challenge to him, returned a blow in the face. Though Mr. Hallowell was unarmed, the Admiral had recourse to his sword, on which the former rushed upon him, forced it from him, broke it over his knee, and then flung it in Greaves's face; after this they went

to it with their fists, but were soon parted. — The Admiral has come off with a black eye. He has not yet proposed a renewal of battle, probably preserving himself for the Yankies, who have already carried off all his fresh stock, burnt his hay on the islands, and destroyed the light-house twice under his very nose. One of his relations, who expects the first vacant ship, challenged the Commissioner, who replied, he knew no such person as the challenger, but should always defend himself whenever he should be attacked.—In his own department, the Admiral is more hated and despised, if possible, than he is by the army and the rebels. Capt. M——is waiting to accompany him to England, whenever he shall be recalled; and if the Admiral can rally his spirits, their interview will not end with a boxing match.

1. *London Chronicle*, Sept. 21 to Sept. 23, 1775.

#### JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Sabatti, 9 ho. A.M. August 19th, 1775.

Mr. John Carter lately from Boston, being requested, attended in Congress. Short notes of his information were taken by one of the Secretaries, and being read to the said John Carter, and by him acknowledged to be truly taken, were filed.

A draught of a letter to the committee of Philadelphia was read, and filed, and is in the words following, to wit :

In Provincial Congress, New-York, August 19th, 1775.

Gentlemen— We enclose you short notes of information we received of Mr. John Carter, who left Boston a few days since. Mr. Carter will speedily be in Philadelphia, and can give you more fully and particularly the information we received of him.

You will, no doubt, gentlemen, make such inquiries as to discover whether the owners of the Ship *Sally*, as well as of Mr. White's Schooner, did not ship their respective cargoes with design to supply the ministerial fleet and army at Boston, which there is but too much reason to suspect.

We are, most respectfully, gentlemen [&c.]

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above letter be engrossed and signed by the President, and together with a copy of the notes of the examination of Mr. John Carter, as far as relates to the Ship *Sally* and White's brig, be transmitted to the committee of the city of Philadelphia.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 19, 1775

Deliver'd an Order to Mr. [Robert] Towers, to Major Sam'l Mifflin, for the Powder that came this day in Capt Ferris, which is to be put into the Powder House.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 308.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

Saturday Morning, 9 o'clock, 19th August, 1775

Captain Thomas Fitch appeared before the committee, and swore on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the cargo he had on board the schooner *Swallow*, was not intended, nor should not be landed at any Port, except in some of the West India Islands; and that he is to proceed to Hispaniola, and from thence to Jamaica. Ordered, that the certificate produced by Captain Fitch, from Humpreys and Jewkes, be filed among the committee papers.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 161.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

No 5

Charles Town 19th August 1775

My Lord, My Letters No 2, 3, & 4, with a Duplicate of No 1, which was sent by the *Scorpion*, (Via Boston,) will I hope reach your Lordship in Safety. I sent them by the *Sandwich* Packet Boat which sailed from here the 6th Instant under Convoy of the *Tamar*. The Man of War saw her 17 Leagues to Sea, & returned here Wedny the 9th – We are now in such a situation I cannot attempt to send duplicates of my last letters, as I must be under the necessity of letting the Mail take its chance in a *defenceless* Packet Boat, for I cannot in our present State send the poor solitary worm eaten Sloop we have got here, out of the Harbour, as I may now expect the next packet every day, & am still in hopes of hearing from Genl [Thomas] Gage & the *Admiral* soon. –

Your Lordship will I am afraid imagine I dwell too much, & too warmly on the wretched state we are left in here, but my Zeal for the King's Service my thorough Conviction of the ill consequences that has attended the total neglect of this Province, as well as Georgia, & N. Carolina, will not suffer me to remain Silent. Since my arrival here, I have seen Georgia a Province at present, of the last consequence to the W. India Islands, warp'd from its duty by a very insignificant internal faction, aided by the people in this Province. The friends of Government here have been so sunk, so abandon'd to despair, for some time, that it is hardly possible to make them beleive the British Nation is determined to assert their just rights over the Colonies, & it is to very little purpose I mention the great force to the Northward, when it is not in my power to produce a single line from either of the Commanders in that part of America, to enable me to contradict the numberless falshoods which are every day propagated, & which does more mischief than I can express. –

This is a very disagreeable Subject for me to dwell on, but my Duty requires I should represent the true State of this Province, & of my unfortunate Vicinage of N. Carolina, & Georgia, which is equally neglected, equally abandon'd. – Your Lordship will I am sure excuse my warmth when I acquaint You, that Yesterday under colour of Law, they hanged, & burned, an unfortunate Wretch, a free Negroe of considerable property, one of the most valuable, & useful Men in his way, in the Province, on suspicion of instigating an Insurrection, for which I am convinced there was not the least ground. I could not save him My Lord! the

very reflection Horrows My Soul! I have only the comfort to think I left no means untried to preserve him. They have now dipt their hands in Blood, God Almighty knows where it will end, but I am determined to remain till the last extremity in hopes to preserve the King's Service, 'tho My familys being here, adds not a little to my distress.

Another Act of Barbarity, tho happily not of so tragical a Nature was committed a few days ago, on a poor man the Gunner of Fort Johnson, who for expressing his Loyalty was tarr'd, & feather'd 10 or 12 times, in different parts of the Town, & otherwise treated with great cruelty, Stopping him at the doors of those Crown Officers who were most obnoxious; & the Mob so grossly insulted Mr Milligen in particular who is Surgeon to the Forts, & Garrisons in this Province that he was under a necessity of taking refuge on board the King's Ship till the Packet Boat sails. I intend committing this Packet to the care of Mr Milligen who I hope will have the honor of delivering it to Your Lordship. I beg leave to introduce him as a most honourable, worthy man, who has lived many Years in this Province beloved, & respected by all ranks, till his Zeal for the King's Service in these unhappy times, made him obnoxious to the Mob. This Gentleman is perfectly acquainted with the State of the Province, & I can assure Your Lordship You may put entire confidence in his Honor & Veracity. —

I inclose with this a Letter I recd from Coll: Fletchal with my Answer: sorry am I to find myself unable to protect or assist the Kings Loyal Subjects here, it is a cruel mortification. I also send my Answer to an Address from a society of Quakers, in the back part of the Country; they consist of about 300 familys, & are warmly attached to Government. Your Lordship will likewise receive a Copy of an Oath tender'd to All those who refuse to sign the Association, my own private Secretary not excepted, & a Message I sent to the Assembly some days ago, with their answer, all which will plainly convince Your Lordship on what ticklish Ground we stand here. The Armed Vessel that was fitted out from this Port has seized a quantity of powder part of it the property of His Majy on board a Ship lying off [St.] Augustine Bar in E. Florida, & carried it to Beaufort in this Province. Last Sunday 30 of the Militia of this Town were sent to convey it here, & I am told that by one means or other, they have amass'd great quantities of warlike Stores, Ammunition particularly, which they can easily do, as there is no force by Sea, or Land to prevent them, & they allow Rice to be exported on no other terms, but paying in Arms & Ammunition. The new raised Troops which are quarter'd in the Barracks may be near 800 consisting of Vagabonds & Thieves of all Countries, & the Charles Town Militia may be pretty near the same number. The Regt of Horse was to be raised in the back Country; but I am told the levies there have been much check'd by Fletchal, Robinson, & one Cunningham, mention'd by Coll: Fletchal in his letter, who is a very active Man, & remarkably spirited. Mr Milligan will give Your Lordship a very particular account of these matters that have fallen within his knowledge, as he is Sensible & intelligent.

As the fate of the Crown Officers is not determined by the Comme if Mr Innis is forced from me, Which I will endeavour by all means to prevent, he has offer'd at any risk, to endeavor an escape into the back Country, join Coll

Fletchal, in concert with Mr Cameron the Dept Superintendant, but I will not now think of that Scheme. I have the Honor to be &c.

William Campbell

N.B. I shall encourage the Kings faithful Subjects as much as is in my power. I can do no more. Some expence may be incurr'd by my Orders to Coll. Fletchal, I have no power to do it, but I cannot hesitate at such a juncture.

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

COLONEL STEPHEN BULL, TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH  
CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Beaufort 19th of August 1775

Sir Yesterday I did myself the honor of writing to the President of the Council of Safety by Captain [Clement] Lempriere who commanded the Schooner which has the Gun Powder on board, and in that Letter I would have been more full, had not the Wind and tide suited for Captain Lempriere to sail immediately; but soon after they got under Sail a thunder Squal came up the River by which means the tide was lost; which has given me an opportunity of writing again by Captain Lempriere, in my last I mentiod that I should keep a sufficient number of men in this Town, untill the Powder was safely out of this River, which would have been in a few hours, had not the Squal happend; as soon as the Vessels were under Sail I discharged a detachment from two Companies of Prince William Parish, where there are the fewest Whites in proportion to the Domestics, with orders to proceed to their own homes or districts; but as soon as I found that Captain Lempriere had lost the tide and could not proceed, I detain'd a number of other Men so as to have one hundred & Sixty of my Regiment, which added to the detachment of Provincials under Captain Cattles [either Benjamin or William Cattell] command, with the detachment of Grenadiers and Artillery from Charles Town amounting in all to two Hundred and fifty, a force which I thought would be sufficient for the intended Service – these Men I shall detain untill the Vessell with the Powder is out of this River, which I expect will be by one O'Clock, when I will discharge the Men until farther Orders –

In your favor of the 3rd Instt, you are pleased to say, that the Report of My being censured by the Council of Safety, was groundless – give me leave to say, I do think 'twas sufficient to make any man of feeling uneasy, and I was not singular in my opinion, as people here in general think me ill used, which I make no doubt proceeded from misrepresentation, and although I would not condescend to tax Captain [John] Joyner, (the Person who was suspected) before I had related to you the manner of the Powder being left here, and requesting the favo[ur] of you to acquaint me, who the ungenerous Person was that presumed to make so free with my Conduct, but as Captain Joyner has declared to one of my Officers who spoke to him on the Subject that he was innocent of the matter – gives me occasion once more to repeat my requisition, and I shall take it as a singular favor if you will let me know as much as you conveniently can, being

fully convinced I have been unfairly dealt with in some representation, if not with regard to the Powder, or I flatter myself the Council of Safety would not have encouraged Joyner or [Tunes] Teabout [Tibout] to raise an Artillery Company on this Island which must be taken from the Militia, and their view or expectation is to have that Company under their Command entirely exclusive of me –

As the Council of Safety is so far distant from this County, cannot know its circumstances and Scituation so well as I do, immagine they would not take a Step of that Sort without knowing my opinion as they must be fully convinced that I am actuated by no other motive than the good of my Country, and hope they will not be misled by two Men who are of no influence or consequence in this County or even in this Town where they are best known this is not only my opinion but that of the princ[ipal] Gentlemen of this place to who I have communicated my Sentiments on the Subject of an Artillery Company –

As a proof of Mr Joyners influence and Conduct on the expedition he was sent to take the Powder from [Richard] Maitland, you may form some Idea, when I tell you that some days after my return from Charles Town I accidentall[y] fell in here, where I heard that a Canoe had come up from the Camp at Bloody point bringing an Account that Joyner, had but fifteen Men, six of which were the provincial Recruits left at the Camp by Captain [John] Barnwell, and I judging it expedient did send Captain John Bull with upwards of twenty Volunteers, who staid with Joyner and assisted in taking the Powder, and had he applied as he should have done to me I Could with the same ease have sent him two Hundred Men or more if necessary.

I do not mean to claim any merit in my part or depreciate Mr Joyner in your esteem but to shew you that he is a Man of no influence, and that a command of the sort he expects, will be taking him entirely out of his Element – In his own Sphere I would give him the preference of a Command to any Man in this County –

You may perhaps be a little surprised to find 400 lb of Powder being again left here, which was mentioned to me, tho' I approved of the Scheme, knowing the necessities of the People, to avoid *Censure*, I declined havcing anything to do with it – I have the honor to be [&c.]

Step<sup>n</sup> Bull

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP, *Commerce*  
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775

[Port Royal Sound]

Aug. 19. Got all in readiness to sail, and at meridian we weighed anchor, and sailed through Port Royal Creek; and run down as low as Morgan's Island, where we came to, with our small squadron, consisting of nine sail, and rode all night.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO ANY BRITISH  
NAVAL CAPTAIN<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Bermuda 19: Augt. [1775]

Sir I purpose to send this Letter by a Boat to look out for the first conveyance, she can meet with by a Vessel passing by off this land, and particularly of any of His Majts Ships of War, bound either to the West Indies or to Europe.

To inform any Captain of His Majts Ships of War that the Powder Magazine at Bermuda was broke into on top and the doors violently and daringly forced open, at the great risk of their being blown up in the attempt of that most wicked and villainous Scheme, And one hundred Barrels of Gunpowder stole out, the remaining part of it, is imagined that they supposed would not bear removing this Villany was perpetrated in the night of the 14th. of August. And supposed to be carried off either to Philadelphia or South Carolina, I write this account that this wicked and daring Crime, may be known to the Officers of Government in England, lest my letters should miscarry. And to desire some immediate Assistance from some of His Majts. Sloops of War to prevent any further attempts to the prejudice of His Majts. Service &ca. and to beg of any of the Captains of Men of War to call at Bermuda to learn further Intelligence, I am Sir [&c.]

George Ja: Bruere

Ps. having not been able to meet with an opportunity of Conveyance for this Letter as yet, I am further to acquaint you that a prisoner committed for stealing Goods and breaking a shop broke out of a New Goal last night being Tuesday the 22d. of August, He was well secured with Irons and the Provost Marshal tells me that he must have had assistance.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 350, LC Transcript. Enclosed in Samuel Graves' letter of Oct. 9, 1775, to Philip Stephens; a deleted copy is in James Young's letter of Oct. 23, 1775, to Stephens.

**20 Aug. (Sunday)**

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 20, 1775

The Design of this Express is to communicate to you a Plan of an Expedition, which has engaged my Thoughts for several Days. It is to penetrate into Canada by Way of Kennebeck River, and so to Quebeck by a Rout ninety miles below Montreal. I can very well spare a Detachment for this Purpose of one Thousand or twelve Hundred Men, and the Land Carriage by the Rout proposed is too inconsiderable to make an objection. . . .

If you mean to proceed, acquaint me as particularly as you can with the Time and Force, what late Accounts you have had from Canada, and your Opinion as to the Sentiments of the Inhabitants, as well as those of the Indians upon a Penetration into their Country; what Number of Troops are at Quebeck, and whether any Men of War with all other Circumstances which may be material in the Consideration of a Step of such Importance.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 436-439.



*Lord George Germain. By John Jacobé after George Romney, 1780.*

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN BURGOYNE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston August 20 1775

It may perhaps be asked in England – what [is] the Admiral [Samuel Graves] doing? I wish I was able to answer that question satisfactorily. But I can only say what he is *not* doing.

That He is not supplying the troops with sheep & oxen the dinners of the best of us bear [me]ager testimony – the want of broth in the Hospitals bears a more melancholy one.

He is *not* defending his own flocks & herds, for the enemy has repeatedly and in the most insulting manner, plundered his own appropriated islands.

He is *not* defending the other islands in the harbour; for the enemy landed in force, burned the lighthouse at noon day, & killed & took a party of marines almost under the guns of two or three men of war.

He is *not* employing his ships to keep up communication & intelligence with the servants & friends of Government at different parts of the Continent, for I do not beleive Genl [Thomas] Gage has received a letter from any correspondent out of Boston these six weeks.

He is surely intent upon greater objects you will think – supporting in material points the dignity & terror of the British flag – & where a number of boats have been built for the rebels, privateers fitted out, prizes carried in, the King's armed vessels sunk, the crews made prisoners, the officers killed – He is doubtless enforcing instant restitution & reparation by the voice of his Cannon, and laying the towns in ashes which refuse his terms – Alass! He is *not* – The British thunder [is] diverted or controlled by pitiful attentions & quaker-like scruples; & under such influence Insult [and] Impunity, like Righteousness & peace, have kissed each other.

I should have hesitated in giving an account that may appear invidious, had not the facts been too notorious to expose me to that censure, & my feelings in this great cause too sensible to observe them without some impatience.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston August 20th 1775

(No 36)

My Lord, Two Gentlemen crossing a Ferry at Rhode Island in their way from Philadelphia to those parts of the Country were stopped by Captain [James] Ayscough of His Majesty's Ship *Swan*, who found several Letters in their Possession, and some of them of Consequence. They are all transmitted to Admiral [Samuel] Graves who has kept the Originals, and has only give me Copys of three of them which I inclose your Lordship. Two of them appear to have been written by Mr John Adams a Lawyer and a Delegate from this Province to the Continental Congress; one directed to his Wife Signed with the Initials of his Name J: A: The other in the same hand writing but Anonimous, directed to

Mr James Warren lately chosen Speaker of the Newfangled Assembly they have chosen to rule this Province, in place of a Provincial Congress. The Third Letter to Mr Washington is from a Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, who I understand is a Delegate from Virginia.

A Fleet of Transport who had been out in Search of Live Stock is just returned with about Eighteen hundred Sheep and above one hundred head of Oxen, which will be some Relief to the Troops in general, and of great Benefit to the Hospitals.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 20th August 1775

I must beg your Excellency's pardon for omitting to mention in my Narrative that I had received two different challenges from Mr. Thomas Graves, Nephew to Admiral [Samuel] Graves, soon after the Affair which happen'd between me and the Admiral on the 11th. instant.

As these Messages were expressly said to have been in consequence of what happen'd between the Admiral and me on that day, I conceive it to be a Material circumstance for your Excellency's information and I trust from your Excellency's known Candor and justice that you will be pleased to make such representation to His Majesty's Ministers as you think I am intitled to deserve.

I am [&c.]

Benj. Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

1775 Augt.

Sailing up the River for Providence

Sunday 20 Modt & hazey Saw the Privateers turning down Providence River at 11 A M weigh'd & made Sail in Company the *Rose & Swan* Sloop. —

at 6 P M bore away for Bristol ferry & anchor'd off the Island Prudence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO JOHN NORTON & SONS <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Virga August 20th 1775

In my last I wrote for Insurance on 7 hhds Tobo in the *London* since which I have put 7 hhds more on board, therefore I must desire you will Insure 14 hhds in that Ship at £12 P hhd Capt Robertson expects to sail in 3 or 4 days. I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL LESLIE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

On board the *Betsy* Sloop Off Gosport Virginia 20th Augt 1775

Sir I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I arrived here the 31st of July with a Detachment under my command of the 14th Regiment consisting of two Lieutenants, three Serjeants, three Corporals, one Drummer, & Sixty private men of which I should have acquainted you immediately upon our arrival if there had been an opportunity. We have been hitherto divided on board two Men of war a Ship that Lord Dunmore has fitted up for himself, and a small sloop; but his Lordship says he will do better for us and have us more together as soon as it is in his power.

I have been honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 27th of July desiring me to send to St Augustine for provisions for my Detachment provided I should find it difficult to procure them here, in answer to which I have the pleasure to inform you that we have hitherto been very well supplied (even with fresh beef) and Lord Dunmore does not think that our supplies will be discontinued.

I do myself the honour to enclose you a return of the present state of the Detachment.

We daily expect Capt Blackett's Company from [New] Providence, and Lord Dunmore says he will send to St Augustine for the remainder of the Regiment there as soon as he can procure Vessels for that purpose.

We are at present rather distressed for want of bedding as his Lordship has not as yet been able to obtain any for us. – I brought only forty blankets with me from St Augustine –

As there was a great scarcity of Ammunition there when I left it I could not procure more than nine rounds for my Detachment, therefore whenever I may have occasion for any I shall be obliged to apply to the men of war for it unless your Excellency will be so good as to give directions for my being supplied otherwise.

I have the honour to be Sir, [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Leslie Capt 14th Regt Infantry

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775 [Edisto River]

Aug. 20 At 6 A.M. we got under way, and sailed down towards Otter Island, and fell down to South Edisto inlet, to wait the flood. At 11 A.M. we weighed and towed up toward's Fenwick's Bluff; when we came to, to wait the tide, and water the vessel, in company with the different detachments. At midnight got under way again, and towed up.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, DATED  
[SUNDAY] AUGUST 20, 1775.”<sup>1</sup>

About a week ago a small sloop from this town boarded a snow from England, in [St.] Augustine Bay, and carried off between twelve and fourteen thousand pounds of powder, mostly belonging to the King. She had been sent privately with thirty resolute men, well armed, by our Committee, in order to intercept the vessel on the coast, but was disappointed, being rather too late, for there were forty thousand pounds landed, with four brass field pieces, the day before our sloop boarded her. There were twelve soldiers sent from Augustine to assist and defend the snow, to whom our people gave ten guineas for helping them out with the powder, and being so modest as not to resist. A man of war was in sight, but fortunately aground the few hours our people stayed. We spiked up the snow's guns, and then went off triumphant, although attacked by three boats full of armed men. One got within a hundred and fifty yards, it being quite calm, but that moment a fresh gale sprang up. Our people brought their booty safe to Beaufort, a town on the coast, about seventy miles S.W. of this place. It was reported they were pursued by the armed vessels from Augustine; to which place, on hearing of this, our Council of Safety despatched fifteen artillery men and fifteen grenadiers, by water, and a company of our provincials to Beaufort, to assist the country people in the defence of the acquisition.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, Aug. 31, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Charleston] 20th August 1775

p *Eagle Packet*

from the bad opinion everybody entertains of a Vessel called the *Wilhelmina* I am induced to trouble you with duplicate of a Letter which I wrote the 30th Ulto & delivered to the care of her Capt. Williams . . . Since that date a bold enterprize has been carried into Execution by Some of the Friends of America & about Seven Tons of Gunn powder acquired<sup>2</sup> while people were flushed with Success, a Report prevailed that an Armed Vessel having 120 Soldiers on board was arrived within a few Miles of the Spot where the powder was lodged – I wont attempt to describe the effect which it produced – but I am convinced that a false alarm now & then, would do no harm – . . .

I informed you Some time ago that one Company of our Regiment of Rangers had disbanded themselves, that was Capt. M[oses] Kirkland's who was himself at the bottom of the plot & we have made Such discoveries as will probably bring him to Death if he can be Seized –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

2. Seized off St. Augustine bar.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Bermuda August the 20th 1775

If this letter should be handed to Your Lordship, by the Revd Mr Lyttleton, I am certain, the Service it may be to His Majesty will Sufficiently Recommend Him, to His Majestys favor and Protection, together with what I have wrote in a former letter; and the Accounts and Description that He can give Himself, of the miserable Situation I am in, without any Assistance.

We have some fine Ordnance here, and other Stores, and good Sailing Sloops, and Brigantines which perhaps they may now employ, some of them, against His Majestys Cause, for they refused to Charter any of their Vessels to me, to go to Boston to enquire after the fate of my two Sons, very promising Youths.

Our People here frequently persue a Schandalous and Villanous Enterprise, by going to the Cacoses in Search of Wreck Goods: a disgrace to the English flag, to be made a Trade or practice of, and should be altogether forbid or discountenanced by a small Sloop of War, going there and ordering them to desist and return home.

And likewise they should be prevented if possible, from going to St. Eustations, Sena Cruze, Curacoe, St. Thomas &c. and their Trade Confined to one Port here, if pratciable to the Custom House and Port of St. George.

And one Company of Soldiers quartered at the West End, and one at the East End, in the Castle and Forts to have a proper Care of the fortifications in the Town, and Castle Harbours, and the two Companys might be formed principa[lly] from Chelsea Hospital, and the out Pensioners, and this Moderate Climate, might give longevity to some of the old Men, who need not march about here. It may also be a Convenient place this winter, to recover the Sick and wounded of the Army, and here is a good Harbour for Frigats or Men of War, into Castle Harbour, for Ships drawing twenty feet water or more. Sir Richard Bickerton was the Last Frigat of War that was in Castle Harbour to whom I refer Your Lordship on that matter. Into Town Harbour, about twelve or fourteen feet water.

As the People here, have thought themselves of Sufficient Consequence, to Choose Delegates, and Address the Congress at Philadelphia. I hope Government will think they have a Sufficient Reason to put some Check upon them. and Support the few Officers of Government.

except the Chief Justice I have scarce a Man that I can put any Confidence in, in Government matters, especially since their choosing of Delegates & *He* hath been very serviceable indeed. Mr. Lyttleton can give Your Lordship, any further information that you may require.

I have the Honor to be Your Lordships [&c.]

George Ja<sup>s</sup> Bruere

Mr Lyttleton goes by way of Boston unless He can meet with a passage at Sea.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

21 Aug.

MAJOR ROBERT MAGAW TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Cape Ann August 21st 1775

I wrote to you on the 17th Inst that no Alarms or appearances of immediate danger had been in this place for some time past Since the 8th Instant when Capt [John] Lindsey [Linzee] Commander of a Sloop of War threw a number of Shot into the Town – the Inhabitants have remained unmolested

on Saturday ev'ning last [August 19] a Man of War & a Tender appear'd off this Harbour we expected an Attack Yesterday they bore away for the Eastward & disappeared – the Inhabitants have nearly completed a small Fort to mount 6–9 Pounders their Spirit seems equal to their Abilities

We have neither Blankets nor Shirts with us some of our Men are sick owing I believe to want of Covering in the Night I have the Honor &c.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Magaw Maj  
Rifle Batn Cont Service

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday, August 21, 1775

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian, of Machias. Read and accepted.

Whereas the Inhabitants of Machias have been at Considerable Expence In fixing Two Armed Vessels for the Defence of the Sea Coast & are in Continual Danger of having their Harbours Blocked up by the Tenders & Armed Vessels of our Enemies Therefore Resolved that proper Officers be Commissioned to take the Command of said Vessels & that the Commanding Officer who shall be Appointed be authorized to Inlist a proper Number of Sea Men not Exceeding Thirty to Navigate each of said Vessels & that said Officers & Seamen Shall be under such pay of this Colony as Shall be hereafter allowd.

And that the Commanding Officers of sd Vessel from time to Time be directed to Apply to the Committee of Safety of Sd. Machias for Men to Man sd. Vessels upon any Emergency from the Company which is to be stationed at sd Machias under the Command of Capt Stephen Smith & sd. Committee are empowered to order said Men accordingly & when so Ordered by the Committee of Safety on Board they are to be under the Command of the Commanding Officer of sd Vessels –

And whereas Ichabod Jones Late of Machias a known Enemy to the Rights & Libertys of america has fled Leaving at Machias Considerable Estate Real & Personal it is therefore Recommended to the Comtte of Safety of that Place to take Effectual Care of sd Estate Agreeable to the Resolves & Recommendations of the Late Provincial Congress

[Endorsed] In Council, August 21, 1775.

[Endorsed] in the House of Representatives

John Whitcomb, Esq., brought down the Resolve on the Petition of Messrs Foster and Obrian, with the following order of Council thereon, viz:

"In Council, August 21, 1775: Read and the former part of this Resolve concurred, and the latter part is non-concurred. Sent down for concurrence."

Read and non-concurred; the House not being able to determine with sufficient precision where the former part ends, or where the latter part begins.

Afternoon

The Committee on the Petition of a number of the Inhabitants of Machias reported. Read, and recommitted for amendment.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 221.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1775

Watertown, August 21.

Last Monday Morning [August 14] came to town from Ipswich, 20 of the Prisoners taken at Cape Ann the Tuesday before; who together with the Marines, &c. Prisoners, are gone forward.

A letter from Taunton of last Thursday [August 17], says,

"Tuesday last arrived at Taunton, Capt. Abraham Stephen Remsen, who informs, that on the 26th of last month, in lat. 25,15, Long. 65,30, he spoke with the Ship *Juno*, John Mc Henderson, master, who had been then only 17 Days out from Dublin. Capt. Remsen went on board the *Juno* and tarried about 3 Hours.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

Providence [August 21] 1775

An Act to punish persons, who shall pilot any armed vessels in or out of any of the Harbors, rivers, or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels belonging to some one of the British colonies in America, or the inhabitants thereof,

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that any person, being an inhabitant of any of the British colonies in America, who shall act as a pilot on board any armed ship or vessel, and pilot them in or out of any of the harbors, rivers or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels in the service of some one of the said colonies, or of the inhabitants thereof, shall, upon conviction thereof, by bill, plaint, or information, before the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery of this colony, be punished at the discretion of the said court, by fine and imprisonment not exceeding a fine of £500, lawful money, nor more than twelve months imprisonment.

It is voted and resolved, that this colony will purchase all the gunpowder that shall be imported here from parts beyond the sea, before the 1st day of April next, at the rate of three shillings, lawful money, a pound.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 364.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Lunae, 9 HO A.M. August 21st 1775

Ordered, That Col. Lisenard, Mr. Sears, Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Robert Yates be a committee to examine Capt. [Melanchton] Lawrence; that

the said committee have power to discharge and liberate Capt. Lawrence if they think proper; that they take with them the letters found with Capt. Lawrence, and that they make report to this Congress.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 111.

*New York Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1775

New-York, August 21.

Last Friday, sen'night [August 11] Mr. Benjamin Mumford, the Constitutional Post-Rider, with the Mail from this place, was stopped in his Way across Conanicut Ferry, and taken on Board the *Rose Man of War*; such Letters as were directed to Persons at the Provincial Camp were sent to Admiral [Samuel] Graves, those for Newport, a few excepted, were sent ashore: — Mumford was detained on Board till Sunday Afternoon, when he was, upon the Petition of a Number of Gentlemen of the Town of Newport, discharged.

A Gentleman belonging to Philadelphia arrived here last Friday Evening [August 18] from Boston, by Way of Rhode-Island: The 25th of July, lat. 42, he was taken by the *Glasgow Man of War*, 150 Leagues from the Land, in the Ship *Charming-Sally*,<sup>1</sup> Capt. Thomas Doman, with 2200 Barrels of Flour, from Philadelphia for Lisbon, and carried into Boston on the 4th Instant.—

A Schooner belonging to one Mr. White, was also taken and carried into Boston: She was from Philadelphia for New-Hampshire.<sup>2</sup> Mr. [Benjamin] Hitchburn, and Mr. White, are two of the Gentlemen that were taken by Capt. [James] Wallace, with some Letters for the Provincial Camp: They are confined on board the *Preston Man of War*.

1. The *Charming Peggy*, Captain Thomas Dowman, whose cargo was purchased for the British army at Boston, but who was permitted to go free with his ship.
2. Schooner *Woodbridge*, John Williamson, master, taken by the *Merlin*. She was bound to Newburyport, not New Hampshire, and had a cargo of flour, bread, bran and corn. She was condemned and sold at Boston.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 21st 1775.

Mr. Robert Towers Reports, that he has removed the powder from the New Goal to the powder House. And that he has received from Major [Samuel] Mifflin, the Powder that came by Captain Ferris, which is stored in the Powder House, and is as follows, viz:

2	Barrels	-----wt.	200
3½	do	-----	150
87¼	do	-----	2175
48⅞	do	-----	600
4	Boxes,	-----	100
			3225 lbs

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 312.

MINUTES OF THE COMMON HALL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORFOLK <sup>1</sup>

At a Common Hall, summoned and held August 21, 1775. Sundry letters from John Macartney, Esq; Commander of his Majesty's ship *Mercury*, to Paul Loyall, Esq; Mayor, were laid before the Hall, and the Hall taking the same into their serious consideration, and being greatly surprised at the contents thereof, it was thereupon

*Resolved*, that the letters from Capt. Macartney to the worshipful the Mayor, were evidently intended to alarm and intimidate the inhabitants of this borough, were disrespectful to the chief magistrate of this corporation, are an officious intermeddling in the civil government of the town, and contain an implied threatening which the Hall conceive, to be unjustifiable, premature, and indecent. Unjustifiable inasmuch as no reason can be deduced from fact, or any authority be derived from law, to empower Capt Macartney, unsolicited by the magistracy, to interfere in matters within their jurisdiction alone, and much less to hold up to them the idea of violence and compulsion, in a transaction so entirely without the line of his department. Premature, as his conduct in this instance, originates from ill grounded suppositions and mistaken apprehensions, and without any sanction from facts to support them. Indecent, because it imp[licitly] charges the magistracy with a wilful remissness in the exercise of the powers legally vested in them; because the menace is as particularly pointed against them, as if they were the abettors of riot and persecution; because it operates towards the destruction of the persons and properties of a number of his Majesty's subjects, chiefly on account of some accidental insults alledged to have been offered by a few incautious youth, to an individual; because so little regard is shewn to the understandings and feelings of people, as, at the same moment in which this haughty declaration, so big with ruin, is denounced, it is pretended that the execution of it, is to preserve the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects; as if the utter destruction of their lives and estates, could ever be deemed a preservation of their persons and properties.

*Resolved*, That the military power, agreeable to the British constitution, is and ought to be under the controul of the civil; and notwithstanding the utterly defenceless state of the town, the body corporate of this borough will never tamely submit to the invasion of their privileges, by the dangerous and untimely interposition of military force.

*Resolved*, that this corporation will continue steadfastly to adhere to those substantial principles of good government which ought to actuate the minds of all His Majesty's faithful subjects; and that they embrace this opportunity to make this public and solemn declaration, that notwithstanding their exposed and defenceless situation which cannot be remedied, unbiassed with fear, unappalled at the threats of unlawful power, they will never desert the righteous cause of their country, plunged as it is into dreadful and unexpected calamities.

*Ordered*, that a copy of this resolution be, by the Mayor, transmitted to John Macartney, Esq; commander of his Majesty's ship *Mercury*.

John Boush, T.C.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER <sup>1</sup>

1775

[White Point, North Edisto River]

Aug. 21 Towed up to Block Island, and down to Slan's Bluff, where we waited the tide, and cooked provisions. At 4 P.M. we run down to White Point, and came to, to wait tide to New-Cut.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN <sup>1</sup>

East Florida (Copy)

By His Excellency Patrick Tonyn, Esqr Captain General, Governor & Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's said Province, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same –

A Proclamation

Whereas I have received information from Alvara Lofthouse Master of the Brigantine called the *Betsy*, that on the Seventh day of August Instant, He the said Master being on Board the said Brigantine then lying at anchor off the Bar of St. Augustine in the Province aforesaid; A Sloop Commanded by one Clement Lempriere run alongside of the said Brigantine and in a Hostile and violent manner instantly boarded her with Twenty six Men; some armed with Muskets and Bayonets fixed, others with Swords and Pistols, and were Commanded by the said Clement Lempriere and one Simon Tuffs, that the said Clement Lempriere ordered a Guard over the said Master and the People and then in an audacious and Piratical like manner opened the Hatches and took out of the said Brigantine, and put on Board the said Sloop one hundred and eleven Barrels of Gun powder belonging to His Majesty, and about four hundred Weight the property of Mr. Robert Payne, of St Augustine Merchant. And the said – Clement Lempriere for a justification of his conduct shewed to the said Master a Letter or Commission from Henry Laurens, styling himself President of the Council of Safety in Charles Town, to Seize the said Brigantine and take whatever Gunpowder or Warlike Stores he could find on board –

And whereas such proceedings are not only unwarrantable and illegal, but subject the Offenders & Perpetrators thereof to great and severe Pains and Penalties, and it is – highly necessary such atrocious Offenders should receive the Punishment due to their Crimes. To the Intent therefore that the Persons concerned in the above Piracy may be apprehended, and brought to condign Punishment, I have thought fit by and with the advice of His Majesty's Honble Council to issue this my Proclamation offering and I do hereby promise a reward of two hundred Pounds Sterling to any Person or persons who shall apprehend and bring to Justice said Clement Lempriere and Simon Tuffs and their associates in the said Act of Piracy. And I do hereby likewise offer His Majesty's Most Gracious Pardon to any one of the Persons on Board the said Sloop Commanded by the said Clement Lempriere who shall give certain information of the other

Persons concerned in the aforesaid – Act of Piracy, excepting Clement Lempriere and the other Persons herein before named –

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of His Majesty's said Province in the Council Chamber at St. Augustine this Twenty first day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Seventy five, and in the Fifteenth year of His Majesty's reign

(Signed) Pat. Tonyn

By his Excellency's command –

(Signed) David Yeats Depy. Secry

God Save the King

1. Contemporary copy, Papers CC, 51, I, 19, 20, N.A. The proclamation was forwarded to Congress in George Washington's letter of Dec. 18, 1775. It was found, along with many other letters and papers on board the prize brig *Betsy*, sent into Beverly by John Manley.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BERMUDA, AUG. 21 [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

Upwards of one hundred barrels of gun powder have been taken out of our magazine; supposed by a sloop from Philadelphia, and a schooner from South-Carolina. It is very easily accomplished, from the magazine being situated far distant from town, and no dwelling house near it.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Sept. 11, 1775.

**22 Aug.**

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 22, 1775

Ordered, That Colonel Cushing, Colonel Thayer, and Colonel Freeman, be a Committee to consider in what manner the Armed Vessels established by a Resolve of this Court, shall be supplied with Provisions and Ammunition.

A Petition of Edward Emerson, praying that he may be allowed to fix a Schooner, which he had taken from the enemy, for a Privateer, for the defence of the Sea-Coast in the eastern part of the Colony, &c., was read, and committed to Colonel Spaulding, Major Johnson, Mr. Cross, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Crane.

1. Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

You are hereby required and directed to take the *Palliser* Transport, Walter Waters, Master, under your Convoy and proceed with her as soon as possible in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to North Carolina, where having delivered the inclosed Dispatches to Governor [Josiah] Martin, and Capt. [Francis] Parry, you are forthwith to go to Charles Town, and deliver to Captain [Edward] Thornbrough of his Majesty's Sloop *Tamer* the Pacquet addressed to him. You are then to complet your Provisions to four months and return with the

*Tamer* to Cape Fear or otherwise as Captain Thornbrough shall direct. The *Palliser* Transport is to receive on board the Cannon and other Ordnance Stores at Fort Johnston. You are to give all the assistance in your power to that end, and in general to the Service she is going upon. And whereas I have ordered his Majestys Sloops *Tamer* and *Cruizer* to come to Boston as soon as possible, you are to remain stationed at North Carolina until further Orders, Using your best endeavours to give all the Protection and Assistance in your Power to his Majesty's Governor of that Colony and to all other his faithful Subjects.

You are to take, burn, sink and destroy all the pirate Vessels of whatever Construction armed or intended to be used against his Majesty's forces by Sea or Land. And whereas when Fort Johnston is dismantled, there will no longer be occasion for his Majesty's Sloop to be constantly at Anchor before it; And it being of very great consequence to his Majesty's Service that all the Ships of the Squadron should be cruising on the Coast to prevent the Colonies having improper Communication with each other, and the Rebels from receiving Supplies of Ammunition. You are hereby required and directed, while the Season for cruising continues not to remain in harbour longer than shall be absolutely necessary to victual and water, unless by special requisition from his Majestys Governor of any of the Colonies you may arrive at, and it also appears to you absolutely necessary and requisite for their safety and protection, or for any other publick Service.

And in case you shall be so fortunate as to seize a Vessel with Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition, you are to come away with her to Rhode Island or Boston anchoring yourself with her. And whereas the Garrison here is in great want of Rice, should you meet a Vessel laden with that Article, whether she is in Breach of any Act of Parliament or not, you are to bring her straight to Boston.

You are to exert your best Endeavours on all Occasions for the good of the Service, and to punctually execute these and all other Orders and Directions you have already received.

Given under my hand on board his Majestys Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d August 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 188-190, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, R.N., HIS  
MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin*<sup>1</sup>

You are hereby required and directed to take the Transports mentioned in the inclosed List bound to Annapolis, Windsor and Cumberland, under your Convoy, and proceed with them with all possible Dispatch to Annapolis Royal, where leaving Lieut. [John] Bourmaster's Division under the direction of that Officer, you are to proceed with the rest to Windsor, and either remain there yourself or go on to Fort Cumberland Harbour, as you shall upon Inquiry find best for his Majts. Service. And whereas the purpose of sending these Transports is to procure forage and Cattle for the Garrison, You are to take the utmost Care to

guard them from all Attempts of Pyrates, and to give every Assistance in your power in order that they may return time enough to make another Trip before the Winter Season is too far advanced. And whereas I have ordered Captain [Edward] LeCras to send the *Tartar* to Annapolis to take such Vessels as may be ready and proceed with them to Boston you are not to pay any further regard to the Annapolis Division after you have seen them safe there, but bestow your whole Care upon those intended for Windsor and Cumberland. And to enable you the better to perform this Service, you are hereby required and directed if you meet the *Halifax* to take her under your Command, If not I shall send her after you the moment she arrives.

You are to procure every Information you can of the Rebels Designs and to do your utmost to defeat them, and you are hereby required and directed to take, burn, sink and destroy all and every Vessel of whatever Construction you meet armed, or evidently intended to be used against his Majesty's Forces by Sea or Land, or against any of the Colonies in obedience to his Majesty's just Authority.

In case of your meeting the *Hope* or *St Lawrence* Schooners, who also have Convoys, you will give their Commanders such Orders as you think best for the Service, but I would have the *Hope* return to Boston immediately.

You are to continue with the Windsor and Cumberland Divisions of Transports until they are laden, and then return with them to Boston.

Given under my Hand on Board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d. August 1775.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 478-480, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N.,  
HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Tamer*<sup>1</sup>

Whereas I have sent the Honble Capt [John] Tollemache in his Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion* to relieve the Cruizer and to be stationed untill further Orders at North Carolina, and whereas in the present weak State of his Majs. Sloops *Tamer* and *Cruizer* it is absolutely necessary they should come where they can be repaired and refitted with dispatch.

You are therefore directed and required to compleat your Provisions to four months as soon as possible and taking the *Scorpion* with you proceed to Cape Fear, where you will find the *Palliser* Transport Walter Waters Master. You are to give all the Assistance in your Power to the Service she is upon, And when she is ready to depart (and no time should be lost) You are to take her under your Convoy, and, ordering Captain [Francis] Parry of his Majs Sloop *Cruizer* to accompany you, repair with all convenient haste to Boston. In your way hither you are to seize all Vessels with Provisions, and as the Garrison at Boston is in great want of Rice, you are to bring a Vessel laden with that Article if one can be met with, whether she is navigating according to Law [or not]

Given under my Hand on board his Maj's. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d August 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 480, 481, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N.,  
H.M.S. *Cruizer* <sup>1</sup>

You are hereby required and directed to get his Majesty's Sloop under your Command ready to return to Boston in Company with the *Tamer*, which I have ordered to join you at Cape Fear, and you are in the mean time to give all the Assistance in your power to the Service the *Palliser* Transport is ordered upon, that if possible when the *Tamer* arrives you may be all ready to come away together. The Honble. Captain [John] Tollemache of his Maj's. Sloop *Scorpion* is to relieve you on the North Carolina Station.

Given under my Hand on board his Maj's. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22 August 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 482, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

My Lord

*Preston* at Boston 22 August 1775

I have had the honor to receive your Letter June 30. I beg your Lordship to accept my Congratulations upon his Maj. gracious Appointment of you to the Government of South Carolina, and my hearty wishes that your Lordship may have a successful Administration; although the Accounts you have given me of the King's Affairs in that Province are unpromising indeed. It gives me particular uneasiness that so far from being able to increase the Number of the Kings Ships at South Carolina I am under the necessity of ordering the *Tamer* hither. Your Lordship may have been informed of her very bad Condition from Captain [Edward] Thornborough, and of the almost impossibility of her remaining any longer in the Service without the greatest Risque. For a small time only your Lordship will be without any King's Ship on the Carolina Station, but whenever the Squadron is reinforced, or I am otherwise enabled you may depend upon having every assistance in my Power.

The necessity of a frequent Intercourse between the Colonies and Boston, and for Frigates and small Vessels to be within each Government is evident; but My Lord 'tis a most distressing Situation to Know this, and yet be incapable of sending such succours to all Parts of the Continent as the Exigencies of the King's Service make absolutely necessary.

I am much obliged to your Lordship for your good opinion of my Zeal for the King's Service, and hope you will consider in its true light the urgent necessity

of calling away the *Tamer*, in whose room I will send the very first Sloop I have to spare.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 482, 483, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO SIR JAMES WRIGHT,  
GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Preston* at Boston 22d August 1775

I received by Captain [John] Tollemache your letter [of] June 27, and am extremely glad to find that as his Maj's. Service did not allow of my sending a Sloop of War to Savannah, according to my Directions from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, it has not, in your Excellency's opinion, been detrimental to the King's Interest within your Government;<sup>2</sup> however as that may not long continue to be the case I consider myself still obliged to send a Sloop whenever it is in my Power. Lord Wm. Campbell and Governor [Josiah] Martin have made Representations to the same effect with your Excellency, and have earnestly requested that means be used to keep a constant and frequent Intercourse between the Southern Colonies and Boston; but as I do not think it safe for any other Vessels but Men of War to be employ'd on this Service, we must be denied this pleasure untill the Number of the Squadron is increased, when I shall do the utmost in my power on this and every other occasion for the good of the King's Service.

It is certainly reported here that four hundred Barrels of the King's Gunpowder intended for Georgia were taken by the Rebels: I hope it is really intended to be appropriated as your Excellency imagines; but at this Juncture I fear it has taken a different direction. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 484, MassHS Transcript.

2. Graves was deceived, as the South Carolinians had hoped, by the spurious dispatch substituted for Wright's original. See Wright's letter to Graves, June 27, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF  
NORTH CAROLINA<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Preston* Boston 22 August 1775

I am honoured with your Excellency's Letters May 27 and July 8 fully representing to me the bad Condition of his Majesty's Affairs in the Province under your Excellency's Government, and earnestly requesting the Establishment of some regular and constant Channel of Intercourse between the Colonies and Boston. Lord Wm Campbell and Sir Jas Wright have made the same Representation. I am also satisfied how useful such a Measure would be at this Crisis, but I can only reply to your Excellency, as I have done to his Maj's Governors aforementioned, that as such an Intercourse can only be safely carried on by the King's Ships it is absolutely out of my Power at present to appoint any to that Service.

The ultimate determination of Government with respect to these Colonies is hourly Expected; if it is determined on to support the supreme Authority of Parliament no doubt large Reinforcements will soon arrive and I shall be enabled

to send a sufficient Number of Ships to the Southward to answer every purpose of Government.

Captain [John] Tollemache who delieves Capt. Barry [sic! Francis Parry] will I am sure gladly co-operate with your Excellency in all things for the benefit of the King's Service, and I flatter myself, as your Excellency knows the necessity of preventing Ammunition being brought to the Rebels, you will think it right that Captain Tollemache should cruize as often as possible, which I have ordered him to do.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 485, 486, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 22 [August 1775]

The *Somerset* now proceeded to Halifax with the Victualler, the *Merlin* under particular Orders with a large Convoy of Transports for the Bay of Fundy; and the *Charming Nancy* Transport, and several other Vessels, for England, these last being seen over St George's Bank by the *Lively*.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 187, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*,  
JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775  
Tuesday 22d

At Single Anchor Bristol Harbour

Saw two Privateers running up the River the *Rose* mde Signal to Chace Do Bore away and Gave Chace ½ past 10 left off Chace, and Anchor'd in 3 fm being Unacquainted to run any higher Sent The Tender in Chace of a Brigg finding themselves chais'd they run ashore off Warrick Neck all the People left the Vessel

at 1 P M sent the Pinnacle with the Lieut and ten Men to assist in Gitting her off, a number of Arm'd People a[t] some Dist fire on our People on Bd the Brigg & Tender to prevent her Being brought off, At 3 Got the Brigg off & Anchor'd close by the Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" <sup>1</sup>

August 1775  
Tuesday 22

in Secunnit Passage

A M saw 2 Rebel Privateers in the N W at 8 fir'd 2 Guns and made the Sigl to prepare for Action, 10 chas'd a Brigg and run her on Shore at Warwick Neck at 11 we run on Shore about 2 Miles to the Eastwd of Connanicot point, Carried out the Kedge Anchor

P M Weigh'd the Kedge Anchor and let go the small Bower 3 fm sent our Tender in Shore to assist to get the Brigg off

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, Jr.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Norwich 22 Aug-1775.

Your's of this day P Capt [Eli] Leavensworth is before me Observe the Contents – Hope [William] Packwood may arrive Soon; however think it best That as New York, I hear have lately received a quantity of Powder, That the three hundred weight sent to General [David] Wooster be returned in whole or in part – have therefore written an Order below for that End, I think at Present That the Soldiers be supplied with half pound of Powder, ball and Flint in proportion –

The Earliest Account of Packwood's arrival will be expected – I am, with great Esteem & Regard sir [&c.]

Jon Trumbull

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Martis, 9 Ho. A.M. August 22d, 1775.

The Congress being informed that Colonel Edward Fleming and Captain Anthony Rutgers cannot attend as commissioners to manage erecting and finishing the fortifications ordered to be erected on the banks of the Hudson river, in the Highlands.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Captain Samuel Bayard, and Captain William Bedlow be and they are hereby appointed commissioners for that purpose, instead of Col. Edward Fleming and Capt. Anthony Rutgers, with the like powers of the other commissioners.

Mr [Isaac] Sears than moved (and was seconded by Major [Henry] Williams), in the words following, to wit:

I move that the committee appointed to superintend the building of the forts in the Highlands be authorized to procure such cannon and other stores as may be necessary for completely fortifying and equipping the said forts. And the same being unanimously agreed to,

*Resolved and Ordered, nemine con.* that the committee appointed to superintend the building of the forts in the Highlands, be authorized to procure such cannon and other stores as may be necessary for completely fortifying and equipping the said forts.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Nautilus*,  
JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>August 1775  
Tuesday 22d

Moor'd off Newcastle [Delaware River]  
A M Boarded a Schooner from St Eustatia, having Coffee, Cocoa, a Bale of Gause, 3 [pipes] of Gin, 1 partly full, 39 stone Bottles of Gin, 2 three pounders mounted upon Carriages, 3 Musquets Compleat, 23 Incompleat, 2 Cags of Gunpowder, about 30 pounds each; 7 three pound Shot, 20 Swivel Shot, 3 Cartouch

Boxes, one of them compleat with Ball, 3 Powder Horns; all which we took out of the Schooner except the Coffee and Cocoa; sent 2 petty Officers and 8 Men on board the Schooner to take Charge of her: <sup>2</sup> fired 2 swivels and brought a Sloop too. Little Wind and Sultry Wr P M at 7 took a Sloop with 232 Bags of Coffee on board, sent a Mids and 4 Men on board her.<sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.
2. The *Tryal* schooner, James Warden, master, condemned and sold at Boston in Sept. 1775. See also Diary of Christopher Marshall, Aug. 24, 1775.
3. The *Polly* sloop, George Walker, master, from the French Islands, condemned and sold at Boston in September, 1775. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NORTH CAROLINA HELD AT HILLSBOROUGH <sup>1</sup>

Tuesday August 22d 1775

Whereas there are several offenders against the Continental Association now confined at Wilmington, it is resolved that an Express be immediately sent from this Town to Wilmington, requiring the Committee of Wilmington to deliver all such Delinquents as may be in Custody to a Guard directed to receive the same and safely to convey such delinquents from County to County in the most expeditious manner, that they may be brought before this Congress in order that their Demerits may be strictly enquired into, with such papers as were found in their Custody.<sup>2</sup>

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 170, 171.
2. There is no further reference to this subject in the journal, so the presumption is that Wilmington had no prisoners to forward. The actions of committees in cases of violation of the Continental Association was to post them for the proper resentment of the people.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sir Beaufort 22d June [sic August] 1775 <sup>2</sup>

Capt. [Clement] Lampriere Spared me a barrel of Pork & a Barrel of ship Bread, for the use of the Melitia when Cal'd here to Guard the powder, but the former not being used, was omitted to be put on board the scooner that carried the powder, have therefore put it on board a Scooner of Mr. Josiah Smith's & Requested of him to Receive it for you – I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

D: DeSausurre.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 189.
2. This letter is endorsed by Laurens: "Dan Desausurre 22d June 1775 – supposed to mean August Recd 29th Augt"

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Council of Safety, Charles Town August 22d 1775  
Dear Sir [Dr. George] Milligen has taken himself off; his flight was precipitate; he skulks between the Fort & the *Tamar*; I dont know that he had any pressing necessity for such a Manoeuvre, but undoubtedly he longs to be a great man, &

by this Step has begun his Carrer of Glory; probably he had an unconquerable Dislike to the mode of Cloathing lately adopted in these scarce times & by no means wish'd to be exalted in this damn'd pot Country, but would rather a high place in Scotland. . . .<sup>2</sup>

Our powder taken by [Clement] Lempriere is now safe at Wappoo, & will be lodged this night – [John] Darrell's brig is said to be upon the Coast with 400 Stand of good musketts, powder &c. We have not receiv'd any Tidings of the Frenchman – if you remember I never expected from him any great matters.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 133–136

2. Referring to the coat of tar and feathers administered to the gunner at Fort Johnson, see Peter Timothy's letter of Aug. 13, 1775, to Drayton.

PETER TIMOTHY, SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO  
WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir [Tunes] Tebout is just come in with an account of the last acquisition of powder at Wappoo. Tomorrow morning we shall receive it escorted by artillery & grenadier Miletia, & 50 provincials who have been diverted with a March to Beaufort, by way of a beginning, headed by Will Cattel – a most curious Letter from the [illegible] has been intercepted by the little-river Comee addressed to Capt. [Tyringham] House [Howe] of the *Glasgow* Man of War, the original is sent for & I hope to give it to you in print – was it in my hands should have sent a copy. The *Eagle* Packet sailed yesterday, & 'tis said Ld W. [Campbell] himself carried his Dispatches on board the *Tamar* the day before. . . .<sup>2</sup>

Charles Town 22d [August] 1775

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 131, 132

2. The journal of Captain Edward Thornbrough, of the *Tamer*, records the sailing of the *Eagle* Packet on Aug. 22, 1775, but contains no reference to Lord William Campbell, on that or the previous day.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775

[Ashley River, Charleston]

Aug. 22. Got under way and towed up through New-Cut and down to Wappoo, and there waited tide, to come through. At 4 P.M. we got under way, and run into the Cut, and towed through; and came to anchor in Ashley River, and laid all the night.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO  
MR. EDWARD HAY, GOVERNOR OF BARBADOES"<sup>1</sup>

Sir, I beg the favour of your Excellency, to acquaint any of the Captains of His Majesty's Sloops of War that the Powder Magazine was broke open on the 14th Inst & about 100 Barrels stole out – It may be supposed that they would have taken away all the Gunpowder, but I imagine they thought the remaining Barrels of Gunpowder would not bear removing for it seems one of the Barrels (near the

Water's Edge) we may suppose the head came out. It is imagined that it may be carried off, either to Philadelphia or South Carolina, as a correspondence by some of the Inhabitants of this Place hath been carried on to those two places. And a Sloop belonging to Virginia called the *Lady Catherine* in Ballast Bound to Philadelphia, Geo Ord Master, was seen under Sail the next morning, but could not be overtaken by the Custom house boat; And likewise a Schooner called the *Charles Town and Savannah* Packet, John Turner, Master, belonging to South Carolina with 2,000 Sawed Stones, bound to Barbadoes, but perhaps may have altered her Voyage & may be gone to South Carolina, she cleared out the 11th Augt at the same time the Sloop did & was under sail the 15th of Augt in the morning, but the Custom house Boat could not overtake either of them. This is certainly a most daring & Villianous Crime. As this place from its' remote situation, might otherwise have remained easy and unconcerned, as it is greatly to be feared that some of the Inhabitants must have given assistance, I hope your Excellency will be able to perswade some of His Majts Captains of Men of War to call here for further Intelligence, and to acquaint Genl [Thomas] Gage of it, & likewise his Majts Ministers at home. As I have endeavoured to Charter or Hire a Bermuda Vessel to carry some live Stock to the General, Mrs Gage &ca and to some of the Sick & Wounded, & they have all refused me, giving for answer, that their Vessel would be burnt. I have the honor to be &c.

George James Bruere Govr

Bermuda 22d. of Augt. 1775

P.S, I am in great tribulation fearing I may have lost either one or two Sons

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309, enclosed with Vice Admiral James Young's letter of October 23, 1775, to Philip Stephens. A copy is in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 53d, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THOMAS JARVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ANTIGUA <sup>1</sup>

Sr. *Portland English Harbour Antigua 22d Augt 1775.*

I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 17th Inst. dated from the Council Chamber at St. Johns in which you inform me the Council of this His Majestys Island Antigua "have no authority to prevent the buying & selling of Merchandize which hath been fairly imported & would advise an application to the Commander in Chief of these Islands for a proclamation to restrain the selling of Powder & other Warlike Stores to the No. American Traders.[""] I cannot avoid remarking to You & the Gentlemen of His Majestys Council, that notwithstanding Gunpowder & Warlike Stores may have been fairly imported to these Islands yet I presume the selling them as Merchandize to the No American Traders, at a time their Countrymen are declared to be in open rebellion will be deemed Treasonable especially as the Kings proclamation for prohibiting the exportation of Gunpowder & Warlike Stores from the Kingdom of Great Britain &c hath been published in the *London Gazette* of the 19th Octo, 1774 & of the 5th. of April 1775 which last Proclamation still continues in force, And I have no doubt before the expiration thereof the same will be extended to a longer time.

I think it my Duty as Commander in Chief of the King's Ships &c employed on this Station to take every precaution that may be in my power to prevent or put a stop to a practice so very pernicious & dishonorable; And I have therefore agreeable to the advice of the Kings Council (communicated by your Letter) wrote to the Commr, if Chief of these Islands to request, He will immediately issue a Proclamation to forbid the Exportation of Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores from any of His Majestys Leeward Islands for the space of Six Months. &c.

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CRAISTER GREATHEAD, GOVERNOR OF THE  
LEEWARD ISLANDS <sup>1</sup>

Sir *Portland, English Harbour, Antigua 22d August 1775*

Having received certain intelligence that sundry Vessels belonging to North America, go to the French Dutch & Danish Islands in these Seas and offer unlimited prices for Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores, I think it my duty, as Commander in Chief of the Kings Ships and Vessels employ'd on this station to acquaint you therewith, and to express my apprehension; that as many of the North America Traders come in daily to all His Majts Caribbee Islands, where tis probable they may use the like endeavours to purchase Gunpowder &c at any rate and perhaps the great price offered for these articles may tempt private adventurers to run risques and dispose of the same to them, which must prove to the utmost disservice to His Majesty, by thus assisting the North Americans with ammunition & Warlike stores at a time they are declared to be in open Rebellion.

I do therefore entreat, you will cause this matter to be duly considered in your Council, and be pleased to direct that a proclamation may be immediately issued through the different islands of this Government, to forbid the shipping Gunpowder or other Warlike stores, either Coastwise or otherwise by any Ships or Vessels, whatever, for the space of six months.

I have inclosed herewith a Copy of His Majts Order in Council of the 5th April last, for prohibiting the exporting out of the Kingdom of Great Britain, or carrying Coastwise &c Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition during the space of Six months to commence from the 19th. day of April last, and as the reasons which occasioned the issuing said Order in Council still exist, I have no doubt but the same will be extended to a further time. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Ja<sup>s</sup> Young

To The Honorable Craister Greathead Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Leeward Charibbee Islands in America, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same &c at St. Kitts.

The 22d Augt 1775, I wrote to the same purport as the foregoing to His Excellency Thos Shirley Esqr Captain General & Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Island of Dominica in America, and the dependencies

thereupon, Chancellor, Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c. at Dominica

The 30th Augt 1775. I wrote to the same purport

To His Excellency The Honorable Edward Hay Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Island of Barbadoes in America and the dependencies thereupon, Chancellor Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c. at Barbadoes

The 30th Augt 1775 I likewise wrote to the same purport

To the Honble William Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Southern Charibbee Islands in America, Chancellor Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c at Grenada

Ja<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

### 23 Aug.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO THEODORE ATKINSON,  
SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Fort William and Mary, August 23, 1775

I find it necessary to go to sea for a few days, and must desire that in the mean time you will use your best endeavours to preserve peace and quietness as much as possible. I am &c.

J Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390.

REPORT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FORTIFICATIONS TO THE PORTSMOUTH,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In consequence of a vote of this Committee to us Directed we have viewed the several advantageous pieces of ground for erecting Fortifications to annoy our Enemies from making attack, or commitg any outrageous Insult upon the Defenceless Capital of this Province: and we do report as follows, viz.

1st. That we most humbly conceive that an Entrenchment hove up on the height of Seavy's Island so called with two Twenty four Pounders & four or six smaller Cannon (filled also with musquetry) would greatly Retard the progress of any ships-of-war sailing up the River.

2dly. That a Battery erected at Peirce's Island of light Heavy Cannon, wou'd greatly annoy the Enemy's advances, if not Totally disconcert their Intentions, (by carrying away Masts, Rigging, &c.)

3dly. That John Langdon Esqrs Island is a most Extraordinary Peice of Ground (form'd by nature) for a Fortification that commands the River from Henderson's Point so caled, and capable of mounting fifty Heavy Cannon, and wou'd Inevitably Oblige any ship to Remove that would attempt to lye before the Town.

4thly. That a Battery of six Heavy Cannon on Church Hill wou'd be of Infinite service in cannonading any ships of War whatever from Henderson's Point up the River & before the Town.

Annexed to this is an Inventory of Cannon & stores now in the Town – all of which we submit to the Superior Judgment of the Committee of the Town to Represent to the Provincial Congress.

Portsmouth, Augst 23d 1775.

Titus Salter, Geo. Turner, Rob't Parker, Geo. Wentworth, Geo. Gains

Committee

[Enclosure]

3 Cannon of 32 Pounders	Empleyments wanting.
1                    24	30 Shot of 32 lb
9                    4	12            24
3 Brass            2 field Peices.	18            12
1 Iron            1 do.	20            9
2 Brass Swivels.	40            6
2 Howitts.	40            4
	30            3
	700 grape shot.

[Endorsed] A true copy By order of the Committee

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 580.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT<sup>1</sup>

Sir Yesterday, I received Advice from Boston that a Number of Transports have sailed on a Second Expedition for fresh Provisions: As they met with Such Success before it is probable they may pursue the same Course only advancing farther: We think Montauk Point on Long Island a very probable Place of their Landing: I have therefore thought it Best to give you the earliest Intelligence. But I do not mean to confine your Attention or Vigilance to that Place – you will please to extend your Views as far as the Mischief may be probably intended –

We have no Transactions of Sufficient Consequence in the Camp to make a Part of a Letter I am Sir [&c.]

Camp at Cambridge

August 23rd 1775

G W

P.S. You will please to let me know in your next What Progress you make with the Hunting Shirts –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown Wednesday,] Augst 23d 1775.

[The Committee appointed to consider how the two Armed Vessels at Machias should be supplied with Provisions and Ammunition, reported. Read and accepted.]

Resolved that there be paid out of the Publick Treasury of this Colony to Capt Jeremiah Obrian appointed Commander of the Armed Schooner *Diligent* & of the Sloop *Machias Liberty* now Lying in the Harbour of Machias fixed for the Purpose

of Guarding the Sea Coast the Sum of One hundred & Sixty Pounds Lawful Money of this Colony for Supplying the men with Provisions And Amunition Also that there be Delivered to the Said Obrian out of the Colony Store One hundred Cannon Balls of three Pounds Weight Each & Two hundred Swivel Balls for all which & the captures he Shall make he is to Account with this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 6.

BENJAMIN HICHBORN TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

May it please your Excellency!

*Preston* at Boston 23d Augt 1775

Having been for several weeks past, confined on board his Majesty's Ships as the Bearer of some exceptionable Letters, I was yesterday admitted to an interview with the Admiral; by his direction I have told him a state of facts which I presume must justify my Conduct to every candid Mind. – By the Admiral I am informed, that your interference is necessary to my Enlargement –

Suffer me to entreat your Excellency, not to protract my Confinement, as my critical State of Health, makes it peculiarly disagreeable & hazardous –

I am with greatest respect your Excellencys [&c.]

Benj<sup>a</sup> Hichborn

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO BENJAMIN HICHBORN <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Sir,

Boston August 23d 1775.

I have received your Letter of this Days Date. I understand you were sent here by Captain [James] Wallace to the Admiral, and therefore don't conceive my Interference necessary for your Enlargement. If the Admiral knows no Cause for your farther Detention I know of none. I am Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston, 23 August 1775]

Captain [John] Tollemache of the *Scorpion*, that was ordered some days ago into Nantasket Road, sailed for Cape Fear to be stationed at North Carolina.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 187, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Preston* Boston 23 August 1775

I am to thank your Excellency for three Letters by the Pacquet, one inclosing an Affidavit. What relates to the New York and Philadelphia Privateers being on this Coast, and of the force there mentioned is not to be credited.

I have letters from Captain [James] Wallace who has visited the Vineyard, Montock, Gardiners, and Fishers Islands not a Fortnight since, and he does not mention a Syllable of any Privateers but those of Providence, which are Kept in the River by our Ships. However I do not slight the information but think it

probable that all the Colonies will have Cruizers. I shall endeavour to keep a pretty good force in your Neighbourhood, and then it will not be difficult to frustrate any designs the Rebels may have on your Excellency's Government, now become almost the only Resource we have on the Continent.

The *Diligent* is certainly taken by Surprize. The Account of the Philadelphia Sloop with Provisions I believe is also indisputable; but I suspect she was bound there, and that the carrying in is a trick to answer some purpose.

The *Merlin* sails Today or Tomorrow with eighteen Transports for the Bay of Fundy.

We cannot but be extremely obliged for the refreshments we draw from your Excellency's Government, and I hope there is no private transaction inconsistent with the Generals and my Application to your Excellency, but except what the Pacquet has now brought I know but of one Vessel that has twice brought us Cattle from Nova Scotia; so that I apprehend there may be Exportations with your Excellency's Pass that do not come to us. I shall do all in my Power to prevent an abuse of your Excellency's Indulgence, and beg may be acquainted if any such discovery is made. I am &c.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 486, 487, MassHS Transcript.

#### JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

Providence [August 23] 1775

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the members of the upper house, who live in the county of Providence, the deputies of the town of Providence; Metcalfe Bowler, William Bradford, John Dexter, Joseph Anthony, Daniel Mowry, Jr. and Joshua Babcock, Esqs, or the major part of them, together with such other members of the General Assembly, as may be present, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, during the recess of the General Assembly, to act upon any sudden important emergency; with full power of taking all prudent and necessary measures for the safety of this colony, and the colonies in general.

That they be particularly empowered to employ the two armed vessels in the service of this colony, or either of them, in such manner, and upon such voyage, as they shall think conducive to the public interest; and that this act continue in force until the next session of Assembly.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 365.

#### SAMUEL AND WILLIAM VERNON TO GEORGE HALEY, LONDON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Newport, Aug't 23, 1775

Sir: The *Venus*, *Othello* and *Hampden* are all safely arrived at Montego Bay, Jamaica. The opp[r]ession of the British Parliament, or rather of the Ministry is felt in every port of America, truely felt in North America, by some Individuals sensibly so, indeed Tools of Government, of the Navy, especially, I am sorry to say, many of them are most glaringly partial in doing what they are pleased to

call Duty; by taking possession of those persons' Vessels with whom they are not intimately or somehow connected, other Persons' property they seize and send to Boston coming from any part of the World. Our Brig *Royal Charlotte*,<sup>2</sup> John Knowles, Master, from Jamaica, loaded with Rum and Sugar, Cap'n [James] Wallace, of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*, on the 19th June seized and sent to Boston, notwithstanding the condition of the Port Bill, and of any Ports being free and open, is that they continued their Trade to Great Britain and the British Islands in the West Indies, yet we say in direct violation of the Act, he sent our Vessel and Cargo to Boston where she now remains in possession of Admiral [Samuel] Greaves, Ill[c]egally held, to our prejudice, upwards of £2000 sterling. Whereas between the 19th of June and this Date, the said Wallace hath released and given up above Ten Sail of Vessels from Hispaniola and other Ports, loaded with Molasses, Sugar, Coffee, Wine, &c. &c. This partial conduct of Cap'n Wallace we can not account for, certainly we must recover adequate Damages of him, if all Law and Justice is not abrogated with you, for which purpose we have made a legal protest, and perhaps may be the subject of Litigation in your Courts of Law . . . The Depredations committed by this petty Tyrant upon our Trade and the defenceless Town of Newport is shocking to human Nature, he is a savage beyond belief and description; you know we have three other Vessels at Jamaica that it's probable will fall into his hands, as we daily expect them. We do not expect any favour, as we have no connection with Scotch Men, whose influence intirely governs him, and whose principals are notoriously abhorrent to the present Family, at least those who reside with us are peculiarly so . . . [&c.]

S. & W. Vernon

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VII, 301–303.

2. The *Royal Charlotte* is not listed in Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

MAJOR JOHN BROWN TO BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY <sup>1</sup>

Sir This Minute Sergt [Peter] Griffin arrived from St John's where he has been sent by Capt Stewart as a Spy, he brings intelligence that the two Vessels building there are very forward, that their Hulls seem to be finished being blacked up to their Gunwales & that their Masts are preparing, that they appear of Large Size – This sir is alarming News indeed if true (which I have no doubt) they will be ready to sail in one Week or Ten Days at most, for by Griffin's acct as well as others the Workmen are extremely busy & assiduous, working till after Dark every Night. These Vessels when on the Lake will effectually Command it, & the Expedition is up for this Year provided that no reinforcement comes to Canada this year.

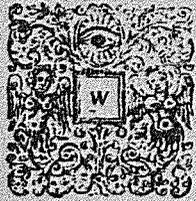
I went with Captain Stewart Yesterday & sounded the Channel Near the Point next below Windmill Point, am of an opinion that a stand may be made there; but should better Judges think the Il au Noix or some Place below that better to intrench & effectually stop the Enemies Vessels coming that up, I shall perfectly agree with them

If the Army are not ready to march within the time abovementioned a Plan of this Kind must be executed, or we lose all (e.i) the Command of the Lake, which is tantamount



By the KING,  
A PROCLAMATION,  
For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

GEORGE R.



WHEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, alter various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us: And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Consent of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the Twenty-third Day of *August*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *Charles Eyre* and *William Strahan*, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.

Beg your hons pardon for writing in a Dictatorial style – should not attempt it were it not Demonstrated on that the Vessels mentioned at St John's with what Armed Batteaus the Enemy can easily Furnish can as easily Sweep this Lake in its present Condition – I therefore humble beseech that some effectual Measure may be immediately entered into to keep the command of the Lake, which I believe may most readily & effectually be done by sending some part of the Army immediately into Canada as I cannot consider the enemy Powerful as yet shall be willing to lead the Way on the shortest Notice. I hear that Two Regiments are coming to Join this Army Via Cohos & Onion River the Barer will inform more particularly concerning this matter I hope to set of[f] tomorrow for Crown pt

I am Sr [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Brown

To Bri Genl Montgomery On board the Sloop Lying at the North of: Il: aumote [Isle au Motte] Wednesday Augt 23d 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany August 23d 1775

We have struggled thro that Variety of Difficulties Which is ever Attendant on Want of Method & Regularity, and Altho we had not Craft to move 200 men when I arrived at Tyonderoga on the 18th July, and had then to repair Mills and send for Carpenters to this Place, It is with Pleasure I can inform you we are Now able to move about 1300 with Twenty Days Provision And that we shall very soon make an attempt on St Johns weak as we are in Artillery, which I suppose will not Exceed six nine pounders. I have two flatt-bottomed Vessels amongst those we have Built they are Sixty Feet long and capable of carrying five twelve Pounders each, but I can unfortunately mount only one, as I have no Carriages.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,  
COMMANDING<sup>1</sup>

Augt 1775

Moor'd as before [New York]

Wednesdy 23

On Intelligence we sent our Boat to lie under the Battery to make a Signal in case the Rebels shou'd Attempt to take away the Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE ON SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 23, 1775

The Boat built by Mr. John Wharton, called the *Washington*, was this day launched.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 314.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 23, 1775"<sup>1</sup>

Major [Philip] Skene has been sent to Hartford, in Connecticut. When he marched off, he behaved with the countenance and spirit of a true British Soldier . . .

Last week was seized near Gloucester, on board a ship from Cork, one Major [Christopher] French, and two officers, with 45 packages, containing 7500 suits of clothing for the army in Boston.<sup>2</sup> The Major and Officers set out yesterday for the camp at Cambridge as prisoners of war. Next week we will have 13 row galleys here, armed and manned. They row twelve and fifteen oars on a side, and carry each a 24 or 32 pounder, some placed in the stern and some in the bow, with swivels, cohorns, &c. round almost every part . . .

Yesterday the men of war lying at Newcastle took a schooner from Hispaniola, with some powder and arms, and the Port penn stage boat. They have confined their Captains, and are sailed out of the river for Boston, as it is supposed.<sup>3</sup> Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, is on board a man of war; as is also Governor [Josiah] Martin, of North Carolina.

1. *London Chronicle*, Oct. 17 to Oct. 19, 1775.

2. The ship *Hope*, George Curwin, master.

3. See Journal of the *Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Hillsborough] Wednesday August 23d 1775

Resolved, That his honor the President,<sup>2</sup> Mr. [Cornelius] Harnett, Mr. [Richard] Caswell, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Abner] Nash, Mr. Willie Jones, and Mr. [Samuel] Young be a Committee of Secrecy, for the purpose of procuring Arms and Ammunition, and to report to this Congress what sums of money will be necessary for that purpose.

1. Saunders, ed., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 173.

2. Samuel Johnston. The Provincial Congress opened its sessions on Aug. 20, 1775, and adjourned, Sept. 10, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN  
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER<sup>1</sup>

1775 [Ashley River, Charleston]

Aug. 23. Got under way, and towed up Cumming's Creek; and at 6 A.M. we came to the bluff, where we landed ninety-one barrels of gun powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*. I.

**24 Aug.**

"REMARKS & CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*"<sup>1</sup>

August 1775 Cape Sambro Light house N W B N 6 or 7 Leagues  
Thursday 24 at 5 P M a Sail in the N E Qr ½ past Wore Ship & Brott too with  
the Topsail to the Mast at 6 Spoke a Schooner from Nantucket

bound to the Brazils, hoisted the Yawl out & sent her onboard the Schooner; received 11 Men from the Schooner & Sent 2 Midsn. & 8 Seamen in their Room. Fired Signal Guns Occasionally to keep the Convoy together

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

### JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] August 24th 1775

Voted, That the Committee of Safety Immediately give such Directions as they judge Necessary for Fortifying & Supplying Material, Raising Matrosses &c. for Defending Piscataqua Harbour.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 578.

### "REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" <sup>1</sup>

Augst 1775 at 8 A M fired a Gun, weigh'd & made sail at 9 it comeing  
Thursy 24th Calm and the Tide of Flood against us, Anchored in 9 fathms  
water & veered to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a Cable, came on board his Excellency  
Govr [John] Wentworth; Saluted him with 17 Guns  
at 1 P M weigh'd & made sail the *Cancaux* an[d] Merchant  
Ship & a Schooner which we stoped,<sup>2</sup> in Compy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.
2. The schooner *Anne*, with dried fish. She was condemned and sold at Boston. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, August 24, 1775

The Committee on the Petition of Edward Emerson reported that it be referred to the next sessions. The Report was read and accepted.

1. Mass. Arch.

G. GEFFERINA TO LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, R.N., HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER  
*St. Lawrence* <sup>1</sup>

Sir Preston, Boston 24 Aug 1775

I am commanded by the Admiral to acquaint you that he is displeased with your sending to Boston the Schooner *Fisher*, because all her papers & the Masters whole proceedings demonstrate that he was upon a trading voyage to procure fresh stock and other necessaries of life for this town, an employment that must be encouraged & assisted by all means in our power; and it is the admirals directions that you give no interruption to vessels fairly & openly on this errand unless you discover them to be trafficking for other commodities than what are for the sustenance of man.

I am &c

G. GEFFERINA

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 488, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Thursday 24th August 1775

A letter received from Messrs. [Titus] Hosmer, [Ezekiel] Williams and [Giles] Hall, about the armed brig fitting at Middletown &c., containing a nomination of sundry persons for officers &c., and proposing that the bearer, [William] Warner (going to Providence) may inlist a gunner there, as they cant obtain one, and also sailors, &c. It is agreed that he may do so, if not disagreeable to Gov. [Nicholas] Cooke, to whom the Gov. is desired to write by said Warner, proposing it to him &c., which was done.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 122.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO NICHOLAS COOKE,  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Lebanon 24th Augt 1775

Mr William Warner, the bearer hereof, hath undertaken to go mate on board the Brigantine *Minerva*, burthen 113 Tons, an Armed Vessel ordered to be fitted out for Defence of our Coasts Capt Giles Hall, to be comander. – This young Gentleman, son to Capt Oliver Ring Warner of Newport, now residing at Middletown, coming on business to Providence and Newport is instructed to procure a good Gunner for the Brig – As he is acquainted with the Seamen in your Colony, thinks he can inlist some number of Sutable men for the service among his Acquaintance there, – applied to me to know whether they may be accepted if he should; have given him for Answer – that I am not sollicitous from whence the men are inlisted – and shall accept them provided it be not disagreeable to you, or the Gentlemen of your Government

Please therefore to be so kind as to promote him in obtaining a suitable person to be Gunner, and let him know your pleasure about inlisting Sea Men within your Colony for this Service – It is hoped this Measure of fitting [out] Armed Vessels for Defence may be a comon Benefit – We are fitting out another of about 42 Tons – Shall be glad to know what your Government hath done in fitting out Armed Vessels. –

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence", *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 269, 270.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Oyster Ponds Augt 24th 1775 –

I have sent Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw 200 lb of Powder according to Order. The Committee of Suffolk County have desired me to remain here for a few days till they hear from their Provincial Congress to whom they have sent an express, with their desire that the three Companies raised upon this part of the Island, who have received Orders to march to Ticonderoga, may remain upon this Station – As we know not what use we may have for powder, and as I before informed your honour I lent 200 lb of my own Stock to the Provincial Congress, I think it unsafe under our present situation to return the whole – I expect by next monday to sail for New York – Your honour well knows the suspicious

light in which the New York Congress are viewed by the rest of the Continent, I must herefore beg of your honour to alter that part of your Orders to me, in which you subject me to the direction of that body of men – I have no faith in their honesty in the Cause, I must therefore think it not only a disgrace to me, but a dishonour to my employers that I am subjected to them – You know not Sir half their tricks – Your honour will be good enough to direct to me at New Haven where I expect to stop a day or two & if I am not there to be forwarded to Harlem I am [&c.]

Dav<sup>d</sup> Wooster

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775                      Moor'd as before [New York]  
Thursday 24                      ¼ after 12 M:N: the Boat made a Signal by Firing a Musquet, several Vollies of small Arms was immediately Fir'd at the Boat by Persons on the Battery & killed one of the Men. we then fir'd the Quarter & Upper Deck Guns, and clear'd Ship, all hands were turnd to Quarters at 2 A M several Musquets were fir'd at the Ship; immediately a broadside was fir'd with Vollies of small Arms by the Marines on the Poop at day light we found that the Cannon that were Mounted on the Battery had been taken away, fired in all 16 24 pdrs. 20 18 pdrs 18 9 pdrs with Round & Grape P M under Arms

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO THE MAYOR AND MAGISTRATES OF  
NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

*Asia*, August 24, 1775

After the Event of last Night, I think it necessary to inform you, that having *Information* that it was intended by some People in New-York to take away the Guns from the Battery, which, as Stores belonging to the King, it was my Duty to protect. I sent a Boat to lie near the Shore, to watch their Motions; soon after Twelve they began to move the Guns from the Battery, which being observed by the Officer in the Boat, he left his Station to come on board to inform me thereof, but being perceived from the Shore, he was fired upon by a great many Musketry, by which one of the Men in the Boat was *shot dead*. My Duty called upon me to repel an Attack of this Sort, as well as to defend the Guns, which occasioned me to fire upon the Battery. I acquaint you with this that the People of the Town may not imagine it is my Intention to do them any Hurt, which I wish as much as possible to avoid; but if they will persist in behaving in such a Manner as to make their Safety and my Duty incompatible, the Mischiefs that may arise must lie at their Doors, and not mine.

An Answer is desired. I am &c.

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

Exp. 11. On Intelligence we went our Boat to be under the Battery  
to make a signal in case the Rebels should attempt to take away  
the Gun. At after 12 M. the Boat made a signal by firing an  
Shot. Not several Minutemen were immediately fired  
at the Boat by Persons on the Battery & killed one of the Men. we  
then fired the Quarter of Upper Deck Guns. and heard the Ship  
hands were hurried to quarters at 2 AM several Minutemen were  
fired at the Ship; immediately a broadside was fired with Colts  
& small Guns by the Marines on the Post. at day light we found  
that the Cannon that were mounted on the Battery had been  
taken away. fired in all 16 24 pdr. 20 10 pdr. 10 9 pdr. with  
Round of Grape

Eight Barrels of fair 12 lb M under some 100 filled Powder. the  
Ship clear for Action. Arrived the Duke of Cumberland Packet

## In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

New-York, August 29th, 1775.

**W**HEREAS the Commander of his Majesty's Ship Asia, under Pretence of protecting the King's Property, did in the dead of the Night of the 23d Instant, most unwarrantably fire on the South Part of this defenceless City, whereby three of his Majesty's Subjects were wounded; the Property of several destroyed; and the Lives of many exposed to the most imminent Danger. And whereas many of the Inhabitants, under Apprehensions that the like hostile Conduct may be in future pursued by the Commander of the said Ship, have been induced to move their Wives, Children, and Property out of this City. And whereas from the present Temper of the People, it is apprehended that the Peace of this City may be interrupted, and the Lives and Property of many exposed, in Case the Officers or Crew belonging to any of his Majesty's Ships, should come with their Boats to this City: In Order therefore to preserve the Peace, Quiet the Minds of the Inhabitants, and prevent the Officers and Men belonging to any of his Majesty's Ships that now are, or hereafter may arrive in this Port, from coming to this City under Pretence of procuring Supplies, this Congress have thought proper to permit, and they do hereby permit (agreeable to the former Directions of this Congress) that Abraham Lott, Esq; Contractor for his Majesty's Navy, do in future supply his Majesty's Ships stationed here with all Necessaries, as well Fresh as Salt, for the Use of the said Ships; that such Supplies be by him sent to the Governor's Island; that they may be taken from thence on board the said Ships; and the Inhabitants of this City and Colony are hereby enjoined from using any Attempts to prevent the said Supplies from being furnished by the said Abraham Lott, or his Agent; or for obtaining Satisfaction for the Injury they have received, as this Congress duly impressed with a Sense thereof, are determined to pursue every prudent and proper Measure for preventing the like Insults in future, and for obtaining Satisfaction and Redress.

*A true Copy from the Minutes,*

ROBERT BENSON, Secretary.

(Top) HMS Asia log entries, August 24–25, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 HO. A.M. August 24th, 1775.

Mr. [Isaac] Sears informed the Congress that he had a letter sealed, which he showed, directed to His Worship The Mayor of this city, and said to be from Capt. George Vandeput, of the ship *Asia*.

Ordered, That Mr. Verplanck and Mr. Sears, wait on the Mayor with the said letter and request to know the contents.

Mr. Verplanck returned with the letter directed to the Mayor, and with his leave to take a copy thereof, which was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Vandeput's letter of August 24]

Ordered, That Mr. Robert Yates, Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Kissam, be a committee to examine witnesses and take affidavits relating to the attack mentioned in Capt. Vandeput's letter, and the attack made by him on this city.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong. I*, 118.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO THE MAYOR AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES OF NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

*Asia*, Aug. 24, 1775.

Whereas a Boat belonging to his Majesty's Ship *Asia* (under my Command) was between 12 and 1 o'Clock this Morning, fired upon by a Number of People, from the Walls of the City; by which firing one Man in the said Boat was *shot dead*. And whereas his Majesty's Cannon mounted upon the Walls, were about that Time, and afterwards taken off from thence; the Perpetrators of which are guilty of the Crimes expressed in the Statutes for such Offences; this is to require at the Hands of the Magistrates, due Satisfaction for these high Misdemeanors; as I must otherwise look upon these Acts, not as Acts of Rioters, but as done by the whole Community. I wrote a Letter to you this Morning, to which I have not received any Answer; I must therefore inform you, that if you do not think proper to send some Answer to this, as soon as may reasonably be expected, I shall look upon your Silence, as a Negative to my Requisition, and shall take such Measures as may seem necessary to me accordingly.

I am, &c.

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

August 24th [1775] I had written thus far, last Night when information was sent me from the Shore that some of the Rebel Troops raised in this Town, intended Stealing the Guns from off the Battery in the Night, as it was too dark to see the Battery, and I knew they would conduct this with so much Silence that we should not be able to hear them, I sent a Boat to be near the Shore. About Twelve we saw lights passing on the Battery very distinctly, and about a Quarter of an hour afterward the Officer in the Boat having plainly dis-

covered what they were about, left his Station to return onboard and thinking himself clear enough of the Battery he fired a Musket to give me the Alarm, this was instantly answered from the Shore by a Volley of Small Arms, and returned by us by two Guns, which stopp'd their Fire; the Boat soon afterwards came onboard with one Man kill'd; we then fired again, and after some time, seeing a great Number of Lights, and they at the same time firing Small Arms at the Ship, we fired a Broadside after which we saw no more Lights. At day light we found they had removed twenty one Guns that were on Carriages on the Saluting Battery. They had (as I have since heard by a Person who has escaped from Shore) so well prepared every thing for this Robbery, that having but a very little way to draw them, 'till they would be under Cover of the Houses, it would have scarcely been possible to have prevented it had it been day Light, As our Guns were pointed as near to the Battery as possible, there is scarce any damage done to the Town, and none of the People hurt; three of the Soldiers I hear are Wounded, but none killed – The People are leaving Town in great Numbers which I suppose most of them will do, who may have it in their power. the Person who gave me the information Yesterday, told me at the same time, that they had long talked of attempting to burn the Ship with Fire Stages, and that now they certainly meant to do it if possible, beyond doubt such an Attempt in a dark night and in a strong Tide is feasible, tho' I do not think they will venture it, if they should it will be for the safety of the Ship to move some distance lower down, where the River is Wider and the Tide not so strong. I wrote this Morning to the Mayor and other Magistrates informing them of the reasons of our Firing and warning them to prevent any further Occasion being given. not having received any Answer I this Evening sent another Letter (the copy of which I herewith enclose) and had one immediately in return from the Mayor, telling me that I shall receive a full answer tomorrow morning to my Letters –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

#### NARRATIVE OF THE OCCURRENCES IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 24, 1775<sup>1</sup>

The Provincial Congress having resolved that the Cannon should be removed from the Battery, a Number of the Citizens collected for that Purpose last Wednesday Evening; and, Part of the Provincial Artillery, under the Command of Capt. John Lamb, were posted on the Battery, to prevent the Landing of any Party from the *Asia* Man of War, to annoy them while at work. When they Marched down, which was about 11 o'Clock, they observed one of the above Ship's Barges lying at some Distance from the Shore, where she continued upwards of an Hour; then she got under Sail and fired a Musket at the Men that were posted on the Battery. This was immediately returned by a smart Fire of Musketry from the Artillery, and a few of the Independent Light-Infantry belonging to Col. [John] Lasher's Battalion, that were likewise posted there for the above Purpose. – Soon after this the *Asia* fired three Cannon, when our Drums beat to Arms, which alarmed the Inhabitants; when they had assembled she began a heavy and smart Fire, of Nine, Eighteen, and Twenty-four Pounders, and some Grape Shot; succeeded by a Discharge of

Musketry from the Marines: But without doing any other Mischief than damaging the upper Part of several Houses near the Fort, and White-Hall, and wounding three Men. Notwithstanding the Fire from the *Asia*, the Citizens effected their Purpose, and carried off Twenty-one Pieces of Cannon, being all that were mounted on Carriages. – Since this Disturbance the Women and Children have been continually moving out of Town, with their most valuable Effects.

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, AUGUST 24 [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday our Congress directed that the cannon on the battery should be removed, and last night it was put in execution. The man of war's folks had got intelligence of it and sent the barge to watch; our people had removed 9 or 11 (it is uncertain which) of the cannon without molestation; then a man in the stern of the barge made a false fire – this happened about half past 12 last night. The barge's people then fired ball, upon which ours (who had got together) were ordered to fire, which they did, and continued it till the barge got out of reach. From the cries and shrieks of the people on board it is thought some of them were much wounded. While the small arms were firing the man of war began – she first fired a single ball; then a ball and grape shot, afterwards several guns, (I don't know what they were loaded with) and then a broadside; we had more guns and another broadside before all was over, however our people effected their purpose and got away all the cannon that was mounted, I believe about 20 in number. As we had nothing but small arms we could do no damage to the man of war, and she did very little to us. A house next to Roger Morris's and Black Sam's, at the corner by the Exchange, each had an eighteen pound ball shot into their roofs; some other houses suffered a little, but the principal damage was sustained by some small buildings adjoining to the Battery. No lives were lost, and but very few of our people wounded that I can learn of, and those but slightly. It was very distressing to see women and children moving half naked at midnight.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Aug. 28, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF ANOTHER LETTER FROM NEW YORK, THURSDAY, (AUGUST 24)  
[1775] 8 o'clock.”<sup>1</sup>

We were suddenly alarmed this morning about half past 12 o'clock, by the *Asia* man of war, cannonading our town, both with grape shot and ball, which continued until 3 o'clock, with short intervals, without doing much damage, except firing into some houses near the fort, and wounding three or four of our men. I learn it happened in the following manner – A party of our light infantry and citizens about 60, commanded by the brave Capt. [Dirck] Hanson, were busy in removing the cannon from the battery, when they were discovered by the people on board who sent their boat on shore armed.

When they came within 20 or 30 yards of the shore they made a signal to the man of war, who immediately fired upon our people, which was answered

by a volley from the barge, without doing execution, as our men were all under cover of the battery, they returned the fire immediately upon the barge, and it is supposed must have killed a good many of them, as they heard a great crying among them, and they directly put off to the ship. Our militia behaved with a good deal of spirit, and turned out extraordinary well. What will be the consequence of this unhappy affair, God only knows.

My dear friend, the scene is now open here, we know what we have to depend upon, every friend to his country ought not to hesitate a moment what step to take. I just learn Cap. [George] Vandeput was not on board this last night, and that they have sent a party of the light horse to take him and our Governour into custody, who are at Long-Island. I am very much fatigued, having been on guard these two nights.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Aug. 28, 1775.

2. This letter provides an interesting view of what arises when rumor takes the place of fact.

SIMEON DEANE TO SILAS DEANE, CONNECTICUT DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, 24th August, 1775.

Last night we had a brush with the *Asia* ship of war, tho' but little damage done, considering the guns fired. Particulars are, that it was last night concerted to remove the cannon and warlike stores from the Battery, of which the ship was previously informed by some of their good Tory friends here; and being [provi]ded with a spring on her cable, and every necessary for engagement, at about long musket shot from the battery in North River. Our people came to the guns about 11 o'clock, with much silence, but found the Ship's boats full of men, lying very silently on their oars at about fifty or sixty yards distant; and on their beginning to move a cannon, they made signal by a fuse in their boat and discharge of a musket or two on us, which was instantly followed by a cannon-ball from the Ship. On which Capt. [John] Lamb ordered Fire, and there was a discharge of forty or fifty muskets into their boats, who made the best of their way on board. The Ship then fired two more cannon, with langrage &c., which wounded one or two of our men.

During this there was a great alarm through the city; the drums beating to arms, &c. &c., and the poor women and children screaming and flying from the city. After a cessation of about fifteen minutes, (during all which time we were drawing away the cannon,) they fired another shot into the Battery; on which we gave three Huzzas, and one imprudent fellow fired a musket, contrary to orders. The Ship gave us almost her whole broadside, being 9, 18, & 24 lb. shot, with two swivel balls accompanying each large shot, as we find in several places where they struck in range on the fence, houses, &c. This redoubled the consternation, and vast numbers of helpless wretches fled into the fields, &c. Others, in coaches, carriages &c. left the town in a hurry. After which, all was tolerably quiet.

This morning we find many shot holes in the houses, and particularly in the fence at the lower Barracks. One 24 lb. ball went through and through the Barracks, and then thro' two bbls of flour on board a vessel in Whitehall Slip,

where it stopped. Early, a company of soldiers are dispatched to Long Island to seize Govr [William] Tryon and Capt. [George] Vandeput, who are both said to be there. The remaining troops are going this afternoon to carry the shot from the lower Battery, which will bring cannonading enough, I expect. The Ship now appears to be very well prepared, and they are continually levelling their guns, as the tide rises or falls. Were it not for the expectation of being a spectator of the fray, I would set out this afternoon; but shall not tarry long here.

The Tories here are pretty silent and look wild. The warm Whigs curse their Provincial Congress, as being infested with [too ma]ny scabby sheep. The Congress are taking depositions concerning last night's work, as 'tis said the people here are charg'd by the Ship with firing first and killing six of their seamen.

We have drawn twenty-one fine Pieces with good carriages, up to the Green, and expect to get the others this afternoon. I am, &c

Simeon Dean[e].

P.S. Capt. Lawrence, of an armed Schooner here, was last night intercepted with letters from Govr Tryon to Gage, it is said, which might have hastened the proceedings here.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, II, 296-298.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Jovis 4 to ho. P.M. August 24th, 1775.

The committee appointed to examine Capt. Melancton Lawrence delivered in the examination of said Lawrence, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

The examination of Capt. Melancton Lawrence before a committee of the Congress on the 24th day of August, 1775.

That he was appointed, on the 24th April last, commander of the schooner *Neptune*, and believes she belongs to the Government. That he left Boston on the 23d of July last with despatches from Gen. [Thomas] Gage to Capt. [George] Vandeput; that he had orders from the general to put himself under the command of one Lieut. Evans, agent of the transports; that when he went on board of Evans' transports, he received from him two letters directed to one [James] Wallace, captain of the *Rose* man of war at Newport; that if Capt. Wallace gave him no particular orders to the contrary he was to cruize south, off Block island, until he heard from the said Evans; that he arrived at Newport in three days, and not finding Wallace, he stood out and fell in with the *King Fisher*, the captain whereof took him under his command and conveyed him into Rhode Island, where he found Capt. Wallace, to whom he delivered his letters; that he then ordered him to follow him and proceed to Block island, where they fell in with a fleet of transports and proceeded with the fleet to Fisher's island; that he was told by one, Col. [Abijah] Willard that he had planned the expedition to take the cattle from the islands; that cattle and sheep were taken off from Gardiner's and Fisher's islands, to wit: 36 head of horned cattle and 1,100 sheep from Fisher's island, as he was informed; from Gardiner's island, between 40 and 50 horned cattle, and

between 1,800 and 2,000 sheep, as the examinant was informed; that the examinant did not assist in taking the cattle and sheep from either of the islands, nor received any of them except four sheep, which were sent aboard for the use of the men who were sent on board of this examinant by Col. Willard. That the examinant understood from Col. Willard, that the man on Gardiner's island was very sulky at first and refused to sell, but that afterwards he insisted that whatever they took away they were to give an account of; that he also understood from Willard, and from other circumstances he has reason to believe, that the man on Fisher's island was willing to sell cattle; that Evans, the agent, gave this examinant orders to take all vessels he might fall in with, and particularly those loaded with salt; that this examinant met with several vessels, particularly a brig loaded with salt, bound to Rhode Island, but did not take or molest them in their voyage: that he could not discover that there were any intentions of the army, or any part of it, to remove from Boston; but on the contrary, there was all the appearance of their intentions to stay, as they were strengthening their fortifications; that no troops had been sent from Boston to Quebec, but that he has understood that one Gamble, an officer, was gone to recruit there; that when this examinant, in May or June last, was on his return from here to Boston near the Hook, a sloop from Staten-Island came down with sheep, hogs and hay; that Capt. McDonald was on board the sloop, who insisted on their being taken on board the schooner; but upon his examinant's refusing to take them on board, they were sent back, though the said McDonald proceeded with him to Boston; and that the said McDonald at Boston informed him he was going to Quebec, and that he was on full pay; that Allen McLean also went passenger with this examinant to Boston, and returned to New-York with the examinant, when he brought Gen. [Frederick] Haldimand to New-York; that the said McLean brought with him a bag of money which he took ashore with him; that from papers which he left on board the examinant discovered from the contents of one of which subscribed by Gen. Gage, authorizing him to enlist a regiment of, he thinks Highlanders, in the Provinces for His Majesty's service; that at Tarpaulin Cove, he received a package of letters from Evans, directed to Governor [William] Tryon; and that Evans told him they were letters he had received from Gen. [James] Robinson [Robertson], which he delivered on board the *Asia* man of war, that this examinant is willing to declare on oath that he has at no time carried any provisions other than his own stores for the use of the vessel from this or any other port to Boston, though he has had opportunities to do it (except seven sheep, which were put on board of him by [James] Montague at the Hook).

Melanchton Lawrence.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 119.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] August 24th, 1775

*Resolved*, That the Boat built by Carroup & Fullerton, and to be launched this day, be called the *Effingham*.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 314.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] 24 [August, 1775.] Called by the way at the Coffee House, advice being brought that the man-of-war below had seized Captain Miffin's snow, from——,<sup>2</sup> detained her, and had confined both captain and mate. He seemed to be insolent, his mild behavior so much before applauded, was now all absorbed in ill-will and rancor; he expressed himself in conversation, it's said, respecting our Committee of Safety far from politeness, but in low, obscene language, and closed it with this speech as a specimen, "That he did not value all their gondolas or Committee of Safety a ——;" so much to show the mild, complaisant gentlemen!

1. Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*, 39, 40.

2. Not a snow, but the schooner *Tryal*, James Warden, master. See *Journal of the Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Richmond] Thursday, August 24, 1775.

An Ordinance appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony, having been fairly transcribed, was read the third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said Ordinance do pass.

And in order to obtain the most authentick intelligence in all matters of importance, and to avoid false alarms, *Be it further ordained*, That the Committee of Safety shall keep up a correspondence with Committees of the several Counties and Corporations, the commanding officers, as well of the regulars as the minute men, and shall have full power to appoint a sufficient number of look-outs and advice boats, at proper stations, and to engage necessary expresses, in different parts of the Country, to be in constant readiness to set out on the shortest notice, and shall issue their warrants, from time to time, to the treasurer, for paying the same.

1. *Va. Conv.*, 22, 45.

**25 Aug.**

PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MATTHEW THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Sir —

Portsmouth Aug 25 1775

We beg leave to inform the Honble Provincial Congress that yesterday his Majesty's Ships *Scarborough* & *Canso* [*Canceaux*] sailed from this Harbour 'tis said for Boston with Governor [John] Wentworth & His Family on board & that we doubt not the Honble Congress will in their Wisdom pay due attention to the request of this Committee signified to them yesterday by Mr. Morrison.

We inclose a Vote of this Committee relative to Shipping off fish & Mr Champney who carries this will inform the Honble Congress fully as to that Matter —

I am by order of the Comee of Safety Sir &c.

H. Wentworth Chairman

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XIII, 279.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] August 25th [1775]

Voted, That Capt. Ezekiel Worthen Proceed Immediately to Portsmouth as an Engineer and there Take care, & have, in conjunction with the Committee of safety at Portsmouth, the oversight & Direction of Laying out & Erecting Batterys for the Defence of Piscataqua Harbour, & get the Guns fixt & mounted therein and all other Necessarys for compleating the Batterys.

Voted That Capt Shadrach Hodgson Proceed Imediately to procure Fascines for building Batterys for the Defence of Piscataqua Harbour, and convey the same to Capt. Ezekiel Worthen or the Committee of Safety of Portsmouth as soon as may be.

Voted, That the Committee of Safety at Portsmouth be presented with the thanks of this Congress for their care in forwarding a Plan for the security of Piscataqua Harbour, and their early intelligence of those matters to this Congress – and that they be inform'd that this Congress have given a Number of Directions to several Persons for providing Fascines and other Implements for Erecting Batterys; appointed an Engineer Imediately to attend there; and ordered a number of Barrells of Powder down with many other Directions: and shall proceed to do every thing they possibly can for securing the Harbour – and they be desired to procure persons Imediately to remove the Platform and every other usefull Implement from Fort William & Mary, & Forbid any person or persons from Destroying the buildings there; and further inform the Committee, That it is the opinion of this Congress, That no Fish ought to be Exported out of this Colony.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 579.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 25th [August, 1775]

The *Scarborough* having seized a large Ship coming from the Grenades laden with Sugar, Rum, Iron Ordnance and Shot on board, Captain [Andrew] Barkley brought her round to Boston;

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 190, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

Providence [August 25] 1775

It is voted and resolved, that two row-gallies be forthwith built and equipped at the expense of this colony, for its protection and defence; that they be of a suitable bigness to carry sixty men each; to row with fifteen oars on a side, and to mount one eighteen-pounder in the bow, and a number of swivel guns, and that they be built in such further and particular form, model and construction, as shall be judged most suitable and fitting, by the committee hereafter named, for answering the design and purpose of their building.

And that Ambrose Page, Esq., be the person for the above purpose, and that he be empowered to draw out of the general treasury, a sum not exceeding £300, to enable him to prosecute the building.

1. Bartlett ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 367.

#### EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE PETER GRIFFIN <sup>1</sup>

Charlotte Coty ss Peter Griffin Soldier in Capt. Babcocks Company and Colonel [James] Easton's Regiment saith that on Saturday the 12th Inst he set out from Crown Point with Lieut Watson on a Scout down Lake Champlain – that on Sunday last [August 20] he fell in with Capt. Remember Baker in the Schooner *Liberty* – that he was chosen by Capt. Baker to go with him to Canada – that on Monday last at Day Light, he, with a little St Francois Indian were landed by Capt Baker a little below Wind-Mill Point on the West Side of the River Sorrel – that from thence they proceeded on the West Side of the River to a Place at St Johns about five Hundred Paces from the Fortification, in the Woods, where they arrived at about 6 O'Clock in the Afternoon – that he saw the Intrenchment to the South Side of the Vessels there building with four or five Cannon mounted fronting to the River – that he saw two Vessels on the Stocks there – that he saw the whole Broadside of one, the Length whereof appeared to be between fifty and sixty feet – that he supposed the Vessel was nearly ready for launching – that she was planked up to the Wale and pitched black – that the other Vessel was chiefly covered with the Vessel last mentioned, so that he could see Nothing more than about four Feet of her Bow, which appeared to him to be planked – that he remained there till next Morning – that to the best of his Judgment, he with the Indian Boy lay that Night about ten Rod from the Centinel of the Regulars placed near the Woods, and at Break of Day they retired towards the Place where they were landed near Wind-mill Point – that on their Return in walking on the Beach towards Wind-mill Point they saw ten Indians coming in a Canoe from the East Side of the River towards them upon which they retired into the Woods, and about four Miles to the South of the Place where they saw the Indians they again came to the Lake, and that they arrived nearly opposite Wind-mill Point at Night, and lodged at the House of one [blank] and the next Morning the Indian's Father brought them on Board the Schooner, and from thence the Deponent came down to Crown Point, on Thursday the 24th Inst – that Cap Baker after leaving the Deponent and the Indian proceeded down the River Sorel in a Boat to the Isle Aux Noix, and did determine to intercept the Scouts of the Regulars there, and was also there to have taken on Board the Deponent and the Indian but that they being pursued by the Indians abovementioned were obliged to proceed farther up the Lake – that the Indian left the Deponent at Wind-mill Bay – that he seemed exceedingly anxious for Capt. Baker's Safety – & that he together with his Father determined to go down the River in a Canoe to the Isle aux Noix to Capt. Baker the next Day – that the French and English Inhabitants along the said Lake are very impatient to have the Army down the Lake – that they declared their Willingness to supply the Army to the utmost with Greens and Sauce – that they are almost starving for want of other Provisions.

The above Examination taken at Tionderoga this 25th August 1775 before the Honble Richard Montgomery Esq. Brigadier Gen by Richard Varick private Secretary to Major Genl [Philip] Schuyler. –

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF  
NEW YORK, TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Sir In Provincial Congress, New York Augst 25th 1775.

We have been honored with your favor of the 21st Inst, and are very sorry to learn the apprehensions you express that the progress of the army may be impeded, if not disappointed, for the want of Tents –

The fact is that all the Tents we had; and all the materials that could be procured, have been made up into Tents & forwarded with part of our own troops; and Genl [Philip] Schuyler has undoubtedly 'ere now disposed of them, as circumstances, or the necessity of the service may require. We can only add on that subject that we shall procure materials for more Tents by every means in our power, and send them up to General Schuyler as soon as possible, but we see no probability of being able to provide at any rate a sufficient number for the N[orthern] Army – If therefore materials can be collected in any due season in your [Government] it will promote the general service to give the necessary orders for that purpose without delay – The precautions about the Pork, which you permitted Mr Van Rensselaer to purchase, may be a wise one, but unless proper orders are lodged at the different landings to which it may be carted, the purpose for which it is wanted may be in a great measure defeated –

Permit us therefore to request the favor of you to give such directions, as you shall judge necessary to prevent such inconveniences and disappointments –

We have the honour to remain [&c.] P V B Livingston President

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775 Moor'd as before [New York]  
Friday 25 A M fill'd Powder, the Ship clear for Action, Arrv'd the *Duke of Cumberland* Packett

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO WHITEHEAD HICKS, MAYOR OF  
NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

Sir, *Asia*, N. River, Aug. 25, 1775

I received a Letter from you last Night, in which you said that you would this Morning send me an explicit Answer to my former Letters. As you certainly have had sufficient Time to make every necessary Enquiry, I am to desire you will send me your Answer upon the Receipt of this.

I am, Sir [&c.] G. Vandeput.

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. August 25th, 1775

Ordered, That the committee appointed to examine Capt. Melancton Lawrence, have power to take such security of him as they shall think proper; and also to take his declaration that he will not enter again into the ministerial service, and discharge him.

The committee appointed yesterday to examine witnesses and take affidavits relating to the attack made on this city by Capt. [George] Vandeput, delivered in affidavits of eleven different persons in this city, proving that the first firing and attack began from Captain Vandeput's boat from the ship *Asia*; which was read.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 120.

WHITEHEAD HICKS, MAYOR OF NEW YORK, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,  
R. N.<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

New York 25th August 1775

Sir In answer to your two Letters of yesterday, relating to the firing upon the Barge belonging to the Ship under your Command, and the taking away the Cannon from the Battery, we are to acquaint you, that it appears from a great Number of Affidavits that the People did not fire from the Battery till they were first fired upon with a Musket from the Barge the Ball from which they Swear passed very near several of them – As to the taking away the Cannon we are to inform you, that the same were taken away by Permission of the Provincial Congress, now sitting in this City, who the People have thought proper to constitute to act for them, in this critical Situation of Publick Affairs. – Our Duty now calls upon us to acquaint you that we are at a loss to account how you could be obliged in duty to fire upon the City in defence of these Guns, in the heart of the Seat of Civil Government, neither can we Account what inducement there could be to fire a Broad Side upon the City at large, half an hour after the Barge had returned to the Ship and the Cannon had been all removed from the Battery – You may rest assured we shall take the necessary Steps in our Power in the Affair agreeable to Law.

We are Sir [&c]

Signed on behalf of ourselves and the Magistrates

Whitehead Hicks

N.B. Another Signature unintelligible

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO MAYOR WHITEHEAD HICKS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Asia*, N. River, Aug. 25, 1775.

I have just now received yours; in return to which I am to acquaint you that the Musket fired from our Boat, was fired as a Signal towards the Ship, and not at the Battery, as the People in the Boat will likewise make their Affidavits of. You say you are at a Loss to account how my Duty could oblige me to fire upon the City, in defence of those Guns, in the Seat of civil Government; and you add, that you can neither account for my Inducement, half an Hour after the return of the Boats and the Removal of the Cannon, for firing a Broad-

side at the City at large. You surely cannot doubt its being my Duty to defend every Part of the King's Stores, wherever they may be: For this Purpose I fired upon the Battery, as the only Means to prevent the Intentions of the People employed in removing the Guns. For a considerable Time I thought they had desisted from their Purpose, till their huzzaing and their firing from the Walls upon the Ship, convinced me to the contrary; this occasioned the Broadside to be fired, not at the City at large, but as the most effectual Method to prevent their persisting in their Pursuit, which it were impossible I could tell they had effected. I have no more to add, but that I shall persist in doing what I know to be my Duty: In the doing which I shall, if possible, avoid doing Hurt to any one. I am, Sir [&c.]

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Postscript, Moord in New York Harbor]

25th [August, 1775] – Capt [James] Montagu is just arrived, as the July Packet may be now daily expected, I shall direct him to lie at the Hook, for the Time you have prescribed, and if the Vessel with Provisions from Jamaica should Sail in the Interval He will be able to perform that Service – I have had no answer as yet from the Mayor, and it is now noon, indeed I know it is not in his power to send any other Answer, except such as will be dictated by the Rioters who are now at the Head not only of the Civil Government, but will not even be contrould by their own Congresses and Committees. – The friends of Government who we are told wanted nothing but some Countenance to induce them to take an Active part, will be obliged to go with the Stream, they are many of them people of the best property in the Town, to secure which a great number have already Signed the Association and the rest will do the same, so that the best that can be said of them is that they are not so bad as they might be, there may be some Exceptions to this but very few. I have just received the enclosed Letter from the Mayor in answer to mine, in which as I expected, they have mistated facts, but I did not think they wou'd have avowed the taking away the Guns, as the Robberies which had been committed before, they always pretended to be ignorant of – You, Sir, are better able to determine what to call this Avowal of theirs, to me it seems that the same Spirit of Rebellion exists in all the Colonies; but if there be any difference it is more violent as you look to the Southward, it is however too great a point for me to determine upon, whenever you, Sir, are not as yet empower'd to give such Orders as I dare say before this time you may have thought Necessary.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

PURDIE's *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1775

Williamsburg, August 25.

From Norfolk we learn, that lord Dunmore seized last tuesday a fine new ship lately launched, frigate built, and pierced for 22 guns, belonging to Eilbeck, Ross & co. of that place, although the owners represented to him the very great

loss they should sustain thereby, upwards of 700 hhds of tobacco being engaged for her, which they expected daily; but his lordship (as usual) was inexorable, and said he wanted three or four more ships for the king's service! [*The committee of Norfolk have forbid the owners to furnish his lordship with the sails and rigging belonging to the ship.*]<sup>1</sup>

He has likewise seized a brig belonging to mr. Daniel Barraud, merchant in Norfolk; *for the same pious intent, no doubt!*

Capt. [John] M<sup>c</sup>Cartney, of the *Mercury*, notwithstanding the very civil treatment he has met with since his arrival in Virginia, both at York and Norfolk, lately took it into his head to write a very insolent letter to the mayor of Norfolk, concerning town meetings, &c. which had a suitable reply.

1. Brackets and italics supplied by Alexander Purdie.

### JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Hillsborough] Friday, August 25th 1775.

A Paper purporting to be a Proclamation issued by his Excellency Josiah Martin dated on Board His Majesty's Ship *Cruzier*, at Cape Fear River, the eighth of August instant, directed to the Moderator of the Provincial Convention of Hillsborough, being read;

Resolved, unanimously, That the said Paper is a false Scandalous, Scurrilous, malicious, and seditious Libel, tending to disunite the good people of this province, and to stir up Tumults and Insurrections, dangerous to the peace of His Majesty's Government, and the safety of the inhabitants, and highly injurious to the Characters of several Gentlemen of acknowledged Virtue and Loyalty; and further that the said paper be burnt by the common Hangman.

1. Saunders, ed., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 180.

**26 Aug.**

GEORGE ROME TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport Rhode Island 26th Augst 1775.

I have put with this a Coop to your address, which contains 6 Geese, 12 Ducks, & 12 Fowls, which please do me the favour to accept. – I sent you a Sheep in June, but by some mistake it was delivered to General [Frederick] Haldiman[d]. – Your late acquisition of Sheep & Bullocks &c. will, I apprehend, render these articles plenty with you at present – Eggs & Butter are scarce articles here now –

A few Days ago a Gentn of your acquaintance, whom I shall not Name, waited upon me & said he had intelligence of much importance to communicate to you from the Rebel Congress – he put it under cover to Majr [William] Sheriff, & I have committed it to a passenger, (a safe hand) who will call upon your Excellency with it, & communicate verbally such materials as were not committed to writing. – I wish them safe to hand, & that they may arrive Seasonably to have the desired effect –

I am your Excellencys [&c.]

G Rome

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

[Providence, Saturday, August 26, 1775]

Whereas notwithstanding the humble and dutiful petition of the last Congress to the King, and other wise pacific measures taken for obtaining a happy reconciliation between Great Britain and the Colonies; the ministry, lost to every sentiment of justice, liberty and humanity, continue to send troops and ships of war into America, which destroy our trade, plunder and burn our towns, and murder the good people of these colonies, —

It is therefore voted and resolved, that this Colony most ardently wish to see the former friendship, harmony and intercourse, between Great Britain and these Colonies restored, and a happy and lasting connection established between both countries, upon terms of just and equal liberty; and will concur with the other colonies in all proper measures for obtaining those desirable blessings; and as every principle divine and human require us to obey that great and fundamental law of nature, self preservation, until peace shall be restored upon constitutional principles; this colony will most-heartily exert the whole power of government, in conjunction with the other colonies, for carrying on this just and necessary war, and bringing the same to a happy issue. And amongst other measures for obtaining this most desirable purpose, this Assembly is persuaded, that the building and equipping an American fleet, as soon as possible, would greatly and essentially conduce to the preservation of the lives, liberty and property of the good people of these Colonies and therefore instruct their delegates to use their whole influence at the ensuing congress for building at the Continental expenses a fleet of sufficient force, for the protection of these colonies, and for employing them in such manner and places as will most effectually annoy our enemies, and contribute to the common defence of these colonies, and they are also instructed to use all their influence for carrying on the war in the most vigorous manner, until peace, liberty and safety, are restored and secured to these Colonies upon an equitable and permanent basis.

It is voted and resolved, that the monthly wages of Abraham Whipple, captain of the colony sloop, be raised from £ 7.10s. to £ 9, from the time he entered on board said sloop

It is voted and resolved, that Col Samuel Aborn, Col John Low, Richard Smith, Esq; Mr. Benjamin Bosworth, Sylvester Gardner Esq; and Mr. Benjamin Gardner, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to cause all the cattle and sheep, that are fit to be killed, to be forthwith removed and carried off all the islands in this colony, Rhode Island excepted; and Block Island, for which provision hath already been made.

And the said Committee are also empowered to order the two armed vessels belonging to the colony, to assist in removing said cattle and sheep.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 368–374.

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effectually annoy our enemies & contribute to the common  
defense of these colonies and they are also instructed to use

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia Aug<sup>r</sup> 27. 1775.

I am not with you the want of a naval force,  
& I hope the next winter will be employ'd in forming one.  
When we are no longer fascinated with the Idea of a  
speedy & Reconciliation, we shall exert ourselves to  
some purpose. Till then Things will be done by Halves.

Sir

Yours most Obedient  
Humble Servant

B. Franklin

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT IN RHODE ISLAND, TO  
CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sr Finding by the late Act of Parliament no restriction has been laid upon any import from this Colony to Great Brittain or Ireland – and willing to Discharge our Debts due there, We have been Induced to exert ourSelves in Colecting & shiping a Quantity of Flax seed to Ireland, the Produce of this Colony – many difficultys having attended Our Procuring it arising from the times, & finding some quantity of our seed is Stoped by your orders which we conceive arises from your Suposing it to be the produce of another Colony, We therefore can assure you it has been colected in this colony – & Pray a release of it, & that you will please to grant us every Protection in your Power If we have not your countenance in the Admission of the seed timely, to go through the Process of cleaning before shiped it will be out of our Power to put the Vessell to Sea in the time We can with safety go – the Channel in which We procure it will be also diverted to Providence where they are fitting a Vessel for Ireland – & We wholly Deprived of the Benefit – We therefore rest upon the Protection of Capn [James] Wallace to Facilitate our undertaking.

We are very respectfully Sr. [&c.]

C C

the Boatman Informs his Boat leaks much, any wet coming to the seed wholly ruins it –

Newport August 26 1775

1. Champlin Papers, III, 78, RIHS.

ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

New York Augt 26, 1775

Since my last of the 24th I have engaged a passage in a large English built Snow that is bound to London & will sail so soon as to deprive me of the pleasure of Visting you ere she departs. She is the only Vessel here at present or that probably will be bound to Engd ere the 10th Sept that can be recommended and will leave this in about Eight days which prevents me waiting on you, as the opportunities of going up & coming down the River by Water is uncertain & a Journey by land I cannot endure I wrote you that the Man of War had fired 2 or 3 nights ago about 18 or 20 cannon into the Town some loaded with Grape shot & some with 18 lb & 24 lb balls which only injured 2 or 3 men – dislocated a chimney or two – made cavities in some of the Houses and disconcerted the inhabitants, who have been moveing for these two or three days with their effects, as they expected a second edition of Capt [George] Vandeputs politeness who is writing Letters to the Mayor relative to it – it was owing to the people's removing the Cannon from the Battery by the permission of the Provincial Congress, contrary to the edicts of the Continental Congress –

our Sloop is arrived and I believe I shall obtain 7/4 for the wheat – the Flaxseed I must return as it cannot be sold & nothing in this Town is deemed safe – nay altho' your Pig:Iron cannot be destroyed it may perhaps be Safier at the

manner than be involved in the general ruin of the Town which may be the case next winter – I'm in haste your affect son

Rob<sup>t</sup> C. Livingston

1. FDRL.

*Constitutional Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775

New-York, August 26.

On Wednesday night, a number of people of this city, proceeded (according to a resolve of the Provincial Congress) to take off the cannon that were mounted on the Battery, and were desired to be as silent as possible to prevent being discovered by the *Asia* man of war, when they came there they observed two of the man of war's barges, lying a little distance off, from which it is evident that some infernal villain and enemy to the country, had informed Capt. [George] Vandeput of their design; however they began dragging the cannon with the utmost expedition; when they had got twelve or thirteen away, the barges rowed within musket shot of the Battery, and then fired, which was immediately returned by Capt. [John] Lamb's company of Artillery; the man of war fired three shot which alarmed the city; the drums beat to arms, and the inhabitants mustered as far as possible; this did not deter our people from pursuing their design, but they hauled away the cannon with as much spirit as before; the man of war then began firing very hot with grape shot, eighteen and twenty-four pounders, and volleys from the tops; all this time the people kept dragging the cannon up the Broad-Way, and did not desist till they had got them all ranged before the Liberty-Pole; though the Battery and streets were full of people, happily no lives were lost, their guns were well levelled, and the balls came singing over our people's heads, and on all sides as thick as hail; the fence between the Fort and Battery, and the houses around, are full of shot holes, and a number of balls found in the houses. It occasioned a great consternation among the women and children; numbers of people have moved, and are still moving their effects out of town: We had only two men wounded, which is almost incredible, considering the numbers that were on the Battery at the time of the attack. There was one man killed, and four or five wounded belonging to the boats.

Yesterday arrived here from the Eastward, his Majesty's ship *King-Fisher*, commanded by Capt. [James] Montague.

#### JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Sabatti, 9 ho., A.M. August 26, 1775

Captain DeKay, according to a direction from this Congress, attending at the door, was called in and examined, and notes taken of his examination, which are filed. Captain DeKay gave an order in writing to the pilot and mate of the vessel, to bring up his vessel.

*Ordered*, That Col. [Alexander] McDougall take Captain Charles DeKay into custody, and keep him safely until the further order of this Congress.

Whereas, there is great reason to suspect that vessels with provisions from some parts of this Continent, have been put in the way of some of His Majesty's armed vessels, with design that they might be taken. To prevent any thing of the like kind from occurring,

*Resolved*, That no vessel depart from this Colony with provisions, unless the permit of this Congress or of their Committee of Safety, be first had for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That this resolution be published in the newspapers and in handbills.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

JOSHUA T. DE ST. CROIX TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN <sup>1</sup>

Mr Champlin Sr

New York august 26 1775

we have bin here in the utmost confushen Last wednesday night by being fired on by the *ashe* <sup>2</sup> man of war wich occasion us to Send the Ship <sup>3</sup> of [f] be fore She was loded for fere that the provisun vesels would all bin Stopt as there was Great talk of it She went Down to the naros with 600 and od bushels on bord and John Murrey is Gon down with a sloop lode of 1500 bushels i am going Down to the Ship to Day to Carey Down some Small Stores for Capt [William] Baren i Expect shee will Sail tusday morning i have Drawn on you for fifty pounds in faver of Mott & Bown i have not Got in all the bills yet but shall Send you the perteculer account by the next post i have nothing forder to inform you at present but Conclude with much asteam [&c.]

Joshua T: De St Croix

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

2. H.M.S. *Asia*.

3. The ship *Peggy*.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775

Philadelphia, August 26

The *Nautilus* man of war was seen at the Capes, by some vessels which arrived here this day.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Saturday, August 26th 1775.

A Letter was this day receiv'd by Captain George Ord of the *Lady Catharine*, from Henry Tucker, Chairman of the Deputies of the several Parishes of Bermuda, enclosing an account for 1182 lbs. [of] Gun Powder, ship'd by him on board said vessell, amounting to £161.14.8, that Currencey, with an account of 8 half bars of Powder on board said Vessell, the property of Capt. John Cowper, of North Carolina, for which last powder, Mr. Tucker has engaged that this Board or Mr. Robert Morris will be accountable for.

The articles for the Good Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on Board the Boats belonging to this Province, this day came under consideration, and after some amendments was read and approved of.

The draught for the Officers' Commissions to be employed on board the armed Boats, was this day read and approved of, and is as follows:

In Committee of Safety

To

We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, Do by these presents Constitute and appoint you to be ----- of the Provincial armed Boat called the ----- fitted out for the Protection of the Province of Pennsylvania and the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all Hostile Enterprises, and for the Defence of American Liberty; you are, therefore, to take the said Boat into your Charge and Carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of ----- by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Soldiers and Mariners under your Command, to be Obedient to your orders as ----- and you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from the Assembly or Provincial Convention during their Sessions, or from this or a future Committee of Safety for this Province, or from your Superior Officer, According to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant to the trust reposed in you; this Commission to continue in force until revoked by the Assembly or Provincial Convention, or by this or any succeeding Committee of Safety.

By Order of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Bradford print on good paper, one hundred of the Commissions for the Officers to be employed on Board the armed Boats.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 321, 322.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 26 Augt [1775]

Numbers of Vessells are now loading for the Season with new wheat and Chieffly for England T. Ewing a Ship & Brig for England & a Brig for Belfast with Seed & flour, but mostly flour. Sam Carson a Ship Arrived from Derry <sup>2</sup> not yet known where she will go. D Stewart two Brigs Wheat & flour for England & Severall have Sailed loaded with New wheat and flour for England. Jerrold Loading Wheat for London – Purviance Expects a Ship Every minute to load wheat for Liverpool

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Ship *Rose*, Joseph Curry, master, from Londonderry, entered in August 16, 1775. Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775.

Williamsburg, August 26.

It is said the Earl of Dunmore had seized upon two vessels at Norfolk, viz. a new ship, just launched, burthen about 400 tons, and a brig; but for what purpose is not certainly known. Perhaps they are intended to be fitted up and

manned, in order to assist the men of war and tenders in committing infernal depredations in the rivers, and on the coast.

We are told that the owners of the above-mentioned vessels went and demanded a restitution of them; but his Excellency gave no further satisfaction than by declaring he had orders to procure a number of vessels on charter, for Government service, and assuring the Gentlemen they should be amply paid.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,  
H.M.S. *Mercury*<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Norfolk, August 26, 1775

When I had the pleasure of seeing you last, you mentioned having some letters that had passed between you and me published, which I gave you to understand might be done, since which, as those letters concerned the public, I have thought proper to lay them before the Common Hall of this borough. The Hall has made some resolves on them, a copy of which I am directed to enclose you. My reason for not publishing the letters in this week's paper is, that as they are of a threatening nature, they might perhaps give the people of this colony great uneasiness; to prevent which, I think there cannot be too much precaution used, as I am willing to believe your intentions are only to act within your own sphere, and not to intermeddle with the internal policy of this corporation. If you still think proper to have the letters published, and will enclose them to me, I shall take particular care to have them put into the next gazette. My family joins in best compliments, hoping you have recovered your health. I am, Sir [&c.]

Paul Loyall.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

DR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Norfolk Augt 26th 1775

Dear Sir I wrote you about fourteen days ago. . . . Our Convention are still sitting and we are told very unfix'd in their determinations . . . We have Acctts from the Norwerd of the Arrivall of Six more regiments at Boston and its said Lord Dunmore expects a regiment here, which will only serve to keep us in hot water. the whole Country are much incensd against him and I think not without some reason – five hundred of the New ris'd Troops are to be Stationd here or in the Nighbourhood – I find there will be very little done from this place in the export way by the channel of Bermuda –

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

**27 Aug. (Sunday)**

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Boston August 27th: 1775 –

Sir, General [William] How[c], has been with me this Morning, and again informs me that no Caulkers have ever been near him, and that the Boats will be useless unless they are immediately Caulked, I am therefore to beg the

favor of you to order them as soon as possible, as the Boats may be much wanted —

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO P. V. B. LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE  
NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Oyster Ponds, 27th Aug. 1775

Your favour of the 11th instant, came duly to hand, and I should have sailed for Haerlem, without loss of time, had I not received the following important intelligence from Gen. Washington, viz.

Aug. 23, 1775. — Yesterday I received advice from Boston, that a number of transports have sailed on a second expedition, for fresh provisions: As they may pursue the same course, only advancing further, we think Montaug [Montauk] point, on Long Island, a very probable place of their landing; I have therefore thought best to give you the earliest intelligence; but I do not mean to confine your attention or vigilance to that place; you will please to extend your views as far as the mischief may be probably extended. — Thus far the intelligence. I will further inform you, that the *King's Fisher*, last Wednesday [August 23] went up the Sound, with several small cutters, reconnoitring the north side of the island; and Thursday there followed past this place two top-sail vessels, which I apprehend to be transports, as they fired two signal guns when they went thro' the Race. — I would therefore recommend it to the provincial Congress, to keep a good guard upon Queen's County, as I imagine their design is to get stock from Huntington, Lloyd's Neck, or Flushing; and as we hope to secure all the stock upon this part of the island, you may expect the Boston fleet will proceed farther up Sound.

I am Sir [&c.]

David Wooster.

1. Published in New York City in a handbill on Aug. 29, 1775, and reprinted in *Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*, Aug. 31, 1775.

JOSHUA T. DE ST. CROIX TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN<sup>1</sup>

Mr Champlin Sr

New York augst 27 1775

Since my last of the 26 instant the port is shut by the [Provincial] Congress and nomore provision to go therefore the Ship<sup>2</sup> will be oblige to sail with what she has got in wich is between 7 & 8 thousand bushels we are in the grettest Confushen about moving out of town for we Expect we shall not be long at pees i am going to Carey the pilot Down this Morning and sum nasarys for Capt [William] Barren these from your frind [&c.]

Joshua T: De S<sup>t</sup> Croix

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

2. The ship *Peggy*.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philade Augt. 27, 1775.

I congratulate you on the plentiful Year with you as well as with us. It makes me smile to see in the English Papers, the Ignorance of some of their

Political Writers, who fancy we cannot continue the Non Importation Agreement; because if we do it must starve us.

I lament with you the Want of a naval Force. I hope the next Winter will be employ'd in forming one. When we are no longer fascinated with the Idea of a speedy Reconciliation, we shall exert ourselves to some purpose. 'Till then Things will be done by Halves . . .

I shall be curious to hear more Particulars of your new mechanical Genius.<sup>2</sup> A Mr Bell who I fancy comes from your Province & is now here has propos'd something of the kind to us; but not much attended to.

1. Wharton Sinkler Private Collection, Philadelphia.

2. David Bushnell. See Benjamin Gale's letter to Franklin, Aug. 7, 1775.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF  
RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Philada Augt 27, 1775

I received yours of the 15th Instant, acquainting me with the Loss of the Mail; and proposing a new Route for the Post, to prevent Such Accidents hereafter. In that you will take the Advice & Direction of the principal People in your Government. The Comptroller will Soon be along your Road, for the purpose of establishing all the Stages & Offices as he shall be advis'd & find best. I would request your Care of the enclos'd; and am Sir [&c.]

B. Franklin

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 271.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

My Lord,

Annapolis 27th Augst 1775.

The Communication of Intelligence, of any sort indeed, from America to England, as must be well known by your Lordship being so difficult – I hope I stand in need of no further Apology for not having wrote oftener, than adding that, 'till lately, I have had nothing material from this Province to communicate, which was not in common with what regarded the proceedings of the Continental Congress, and what Your Lordship would have the fullest Information of, in the Common Prints & General Accounts from the Northward. Having now a safe Opportunity, by a Ship of my Brothers, (The *Annapolis*, Captn Hanrick) I shall endeavour to lay before your Lordship two or three late Occurrences in this Province, which have given me great Uneasiness, but which I had no power to prevent, altho' I had Influence enough to prevent the Excesses, at first proposed, being carried into Execution, in some Instances, and more especially with Regard to the *Snow Adventure*, Captn Henzell, belonging to Mr Farness, in London, that came to this City with about seventy indented Servants, and the Captain, it seems, had brought out 200 Dozen of Porter, several Chaldrons of Coal, & some Ct of Cheese, under a Pretence, as alledged, of stopping at Madeira, and disposing of them there; The Committee therefore, thinking such a proceeding a premeditated Infringement of the Association, ordered him to return to England, Servants



CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF  
RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

(Copy) His Majesty's Ship *Rose* at Newport Rhode Island the 28th Augst 1775.

Sir I am informed the Assembly of your Colony among many extraordinary Treasonable Acts have passed one for Striping the Islands of their Stöck with intent to destroy the Kings Service and his faithful Subjects – If in their Madness and Infatuation they should attempt this, it will become my duty to destroy every Vessel and Craft we can meet upon the Water of which I beg you will inform the Town, that it may appear how far they are concerned in this Matter. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Ja<sup>s</sup> Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MURRAY SANSOM & CO., AND FREDERICK RHINELANDER TO THE NEW YORK  
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen: Being informed that you had come to a Resolution that no Provisions shall be shipd out of this Colony without first obtaining Permission of you, In consequence of which Order we think it our Duty to acquaint you that the Ship *Peggy*, Capt [William] Barron, had on Board before Resolve was made about 7400 Bushels of Wheat, with which she was Cleard and Sail'd as far as Cunny Island which Cargoe we did intend she should have gone to Sea with, (altho' there was about 500 Bushels wanting to Compleat her Load) as we were determined not to Transgress your Orders.

We therefore hope you will Grant us Permission to take on Board the Remainder of her Cargoe and proceed to Falmouth in England as at first intended.

Your Compliance will much oblige your Huml Servts

New York, 28 August, 1775

Murray, Sansom & Co.  
Fred<sup>k</sup> Rhinelanders

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y.*, I, 128.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Lunae, August 28th, 1775.

The application of Murray, Sansom, Murray & Co. and of Frederick Rhinelanders to permit the ship *Peggy* and cargo of wheat to sail for Falmouth, in England: The application of Charles McEvers & Co. to permit the ship *Albany* and cargo of wheat to sail for Lisbon. The application of Walter Buchannan & Co. to permit a vessel and cargo for Madeira, and another vessel and cargo for Barcelona, to sail: The application and affidavit of Thomas Arden, Jr. and David Bemus, owner and master of the sloop *Liberty*, to obtain a permit for her to sail; and an application from Robert Bryson, of Bermuda, to Mr. Samuel Verplanck, for six dozen bottled heer, a keg of Albany white peas, half a barrel mess pork, and a good American cheese, were severally read and filed.

A letter from William McAdam, requesting leave for the sloop *Jean*, Captain Bascombe, master, to sail with her cargo for Kingston, in Jamaica, was read.

*Resolved*, That no bread, flour, beef, or pork, be shipped or laden after the publication hereof (Mr. Walton and Mr. Kissam dissenting) without an express permission from this Congress or their Committee of Safety.

*Ordered*, That the ship *Peggy* may have leave to sail with her cargo of wheat completed, and that she be subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose; provided that the present captain or master be not permitted to proceed in the said vessel, and that she sail under such captain or master as shall be approved of by the said committee. Captain Sears dissented.

*Ordered*, That Charles McEvers & Co. have leave to complete the loading of the ship *Albany*, James Bunyon master, bound to Lisbon, with wheat only, subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose. Captain Sears dissents.

*Ordered*, That Walter and Thomas Buchannan & Co. have leave to load the vessel mentioned in their application to Congress of this day, and let her sail to Barcelona with wheat only, subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of Congress to be appointed for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That Walter Buchannan & Co., have leave to load the brigantine *Catharine and Elizabeth*, to Madeira, with wheat, corn and staves, 30 casks rye meal, beeswax, spermaceti candles and spruce; but not with any flour or leather, to sail subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That the sloop *Liberty*, belonging to Thomas Arden and James Arden, David Bewes, master, be permitted to sail subject to like instructions.

*Resolved*, That Colonel McDougall, Mr. Richard Yates, and Mr. [Governour] Morris, be a committee to report such regulations as they conceive proper for the owners and masters of all vessels sailing out of this port, with any kind of provisions on board.

4 ho. P.M., [August 28, 1775]

A letter from James and Alexander Stewart, requesting permission to ship three thousand bushels of rye; the proceeds of which with what bills they shall ship, they mean to have brought back in articles that will be much wanted.

A letter from Henry Remsen and John Read, requesting permission for the sloop *Charlotte*, under the command of Captain Nathaniel Harriot, to depart for Kingston, in Jamaica, with a cargo of 380 barrels of flour, and thirty barrels of lamp oil. And they mention that they had agreed to purchase a quantity of ship bread in tierces and barrels, and also some lumber.

*Ordered*, That the sloop *Charlotte* have leave to sail, with her cargo of 330 barrels of flour, and such quantities of lamp oil, ship bread, and lumber, as her owners have engaged or shall think proper to put on board subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress appointed for that purpose.

A letter from V. Pearse Ashfield, bearing date this day, was read, setting forth that he has laden on board the brig *Polly*, Bedford Ashfield master, 4000 bushels of Indian corn, and asking permission for the said brig to complete her lading and to depart for Madeira.

*Ordered*, That G. W. Beekman, D. Beekman, and C. P. Low, be permitted to ship on board the sloop *Pennsylvania Farmer*, William Newton master, already cleared and bound to the island of St. Croix, a cargo to consist of Indian meal, rye meal, ship bread, staves, headings, hoops and boards, subject however, to the instructions of the committee of this Congress appointed for that purpose.

The committee appointed for that purpose delivered in their report, which was read and filed, and is in the words following:

Your committee do report that they conceive it will be proper that the owners and masters of all vessels sailing out of this port, with any kind of provision, should give security to this Congress that they will proceed to the place for which they shall report such vessels to be destined. and that no security less than an oath of such owners and masters ought to be accepted of. Your committee therefore do propose for vessels bound to Europe, the following oath, to wit:

For the owner.

I, A.B., do promise and declare, that the -----, now bound to -----, and laden with -----, shall proceed directly on her voyage to the said place of her destination, for which purpose I will strictly order the master of the said -----, to sail from the Hook into the latitude of thirty-five degrees north, and keep in, or to the southward of that latitude, until she shall reach the fiftieth degree of west longitude from London, and thence proceed with all despatch to the said port of -----, thereby to avoid a captiion by any of His Majesty's vessels of war; the unavoidable accidents of the seas only excepted: So help me God.

For the master.

I, A.B., master of the -----, do swear, promise and declare, that I will proceed with the said -----, now bound, with God's assistance, to -----, immediately, and take every precaution in my power to prevent the said vessel from being taken by any vessel of war in His Majesty's service; and for this purpose I will use my utmost efforts to go so far to the southward, immediately after I shall leave the Hook, as to the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, and keep to the northward of that latitude until I shall reach the fiftieth degree of west longitude from London, and thence to proceed to the said port of -----, with the utmost despatch in my power, the dangers of the seas only excepted, and as I keep this oath, promise, and declaration, so help me God.

For vessels bound to the west-Indies, the following oath, to wit:

For the owner.

I, A.B., do solemnly and sincerely swear and declare, that I will take every precaution in my power to prevent the -----, now bound from New-York to -----, from falling into the possession of, or being taken by any vessel of war belonging to His Majesty; and for this purpose I will direct -----, the master of the said vessel, to proceed immediately from the Hook to the aforesaid place of his destination, without delay, the danger of the seas only excepted: So help me God.

For the master.

I, A.B., do promise and swear that I, the master of the -----, now bound on a voyage to -----, will immediately proceed with the said vessel to the said place of destination with the utmost despatch in my power, the danger of the seas only excepted, and will take every precaution in my power to prevent the said vessel from being taken by any armed vessels belonging to His Majesty: So help me God.

All which is humbly submitted.

Alexander McDougall  
Gouverneur Morris  
Richard Yates

*Resolved*, that the owner or owners, and master of each vessel, for the lading and sailing whereof application has been made to this Congress, and a permit ordered, do respectively take such oath as above directed: that is to say, the masters and owners of such vessels as are bound to the West-Indies, the oath for that purpose directed, and the master and owners of the other vessels the oaths for that purpose above mentioned.

Mr. Morris, Mr. Kissam, and Mr. Thomas Smith, are appointed a committee to report to this Congress the mode to supply the ship *Asia* with provisions, that will be least inconvenient to the inhabitants of this city.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 123-124.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK TO A GENTLEMAN IN PHILADELPHIA,  
DATED AUGUST 28, 1775 <sup>1</sup>

Thursday night [August 24] we expected a repetition of Wednesday night's scene; women, children and goods were removed. All quiet at night. Friday, more expectations and more removals, the Governor returned from the country, and went in person and took in writing a particular account of the damage done; our Congress offered him a guard, but he said he had such confidence in the affections of his fellow citizens, that he thought any further security unnecessary, and declined the offer. He called the council that afternoon. Saturday, people continued to remove. The Governor desired a conference with our Congress, Committee and Military Officers; it was granted, he made a speech to them, told them it made his heart bleed to meet on the road so many people moving from the city with their effects, that they had all the power of the city in their hands, begged they would use it prudently, that violent measures would only widen the breach, and cause the destruction of the city; we had got the cannon in our own power, and desired we would move them no farther, that if troops should come from Boston, we would hear of it time enough to move them, but declared upon his honour he knew of none coming, &c. &c.

Notwithstanding the cannonading, we got off 21 good 18-Pounders, with carriages, empty cartridges, rammers, sponges, &c. &c. The Capt. of the man of war behaved like a rascal in attacking the Town in the dead of the night, when it was unprepared for defence; however the people collected on the battery,

and behaved well; we killed, according to [George] *Vandeput's* own account, one of his men in the barge, he killed none of ours, – only wounded three; one lost the calf of his leg, the other two were slightly wounded, notwithstanding grape-shot, swivel shot, 18 and 24 pounders were fired. I am told people are moving their goods this morning.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, Aug. 30, 1775.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] 28 [August, 1775]. After dinner went with William Rush to Kensington, to see the gondola launched.

1. Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*, 41.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. TO JOSHUA JOHNSON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Annapo[li]s 28 August 1775.

Dear Josa The *Annapolis* <sup>2</sup> is not so forward as I reported – Doctr Stewart his Son Geo. Diggs, Alex Hanson & I am told several others go in her the Doctor goes Home to take possession in full of his family Estate which it is said is several hundred a Year I wrote you a long Ltr by the Doctor which Care his Son I expect will deliver you I make no Doubt but that you will treat them all with Complaisance Geo. Digges claims more he is a warm American & a good Man – Nothing of great Consequence lately from the Camp nor any Certainty of late Measures in England some times we learn of 6 some times of 8 additional Regiments being ordered then again that they are stopped you may safely judge of the anxious State I am in, if I am now reduced to the Necessity of relinquishing all Hope of a happy Reunion with the Mother Country I shall then have but one Object I think I can then arm my Mind so as to meet Adversity like a Man or continue sober in prosperity it is an extream difficult Task to have a [illegible] to defend our Liberties it has as yet been attempted but if a Civil War must rage we must to draw the whole of the Continent into Action go on a more extensive plan – If the war is persued you must settle your Affairs as soon as you can & you had better leave England you can have little or no Communication with your friends here as Correspondence with me is or soon will be treasonable I would have you be very careful of what you write you can do your Country no Service by a Freedom of writing to your Friends & therefore avoid it I would have you determine if necessary & servicable to send a [illegible] but to do an Act which could efect nothing but your own Destruction would be folly & Madness . . .

I cannot but repeat to you that Geo Digges is worthy of every attention you can show Him you may be free with him

1. Jenifer Papers, MdHS.

2. The ship *Annapolis*, William Marshall, master, 380 tons, and six men, arrived at Annapolis June 17, 1775; her clearance is not given, as the Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS., contain no clearances after July 19, 1775. For further references to the *Annapolis* and her passengers, see the *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 21, 1775 and the *Pennsylvania Packet*, Sept. 25, 1775.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK <sup>1</sup>

Sir, His Majesty's Ship *Mercury* at Norfolk, August 28, 1775

I am much obliged to you for your polite favour, which inclosed some strictures by the corporation of Norfolk, upon my first letter to you. I must beg you will be pleased to publish the letters which have passed between us in the Virginia News-papers, that a candid public may judge of the motives which actuate my conduct.

When I first wrote to you, it was not my intention to draw on a political discussion with the inhabitants of Norfolk, or to ascertain in particular cases the limits of the civil or military jurisdiction. I was desirous that his Majesty's subjects should know I ardently wished the peace of this Province, to promote which, I shall strictly adhere to the tenor of my first letter.

I beg my respectful compliments to all your family, and have the honour to remain, Sir, [&c.]

John Macartney.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

*Cruizer* Sloop of War in Cape Fear River No. Carolina, August 28th 1775

Since my Dispatch No. 38, giving your Lordship an Account of the outrages committed at Fort Johnston, I received by a tender from New York on the 22nd of last month, the Duplicate of your Lordship's Dispatch No. 16, which from its date must have accompanied your letter by the May mail, that were violated by the Committee of Charles Town, as I have formerly represented, and was there with held, as appears evidently I think from the allusion to its contents in the Publication of the Committee at Wilmington in the enclosed paper of the 28th day of last month. I learn that the June mail is since arrived at Charles Town, and I flatter myself that the Postmaster pursuant to my advice has lodged your Lordship's dispatches to me in security on Board his Majesty's Ship stationed there, but I have been deterred from sending for them as yet, by a strange and almost incredible rumour that there are armed Vessels fitted out by the people of Charles Town, constantly cruising off that place, of force superior to any Vessel we can get to send for them . . .

The probability of the *Cruizer* being compelled to leave her station here for want of provisions, or to cruize for smugglers or pirates, and the certainty in that case of the artillery belonging to Fort Johnston falling into the hands of the mob, determined me some weeks ago to spike the Guns, and to burn the carriages that were rotten and utterly unserviceable . . .

The sundry depositions of Masters of Ships enclosed will show your Lordship the motives & designs of the Rabble who did the Violence at Fort Johnston, that of Mr [William] Todd refers also to a remarkable extravagance of Mr Dry's which is still better confirmed to me by the Testimony of a Gentleman of consideration who was present at the time.

I have the honor to be &c.

Jo. Martin

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 230-237.

29 Aug.

THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO CAPTAIN BRODERICK HARTWELL, H.M.S. *Boyne*, BOSTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Portsmo Augt 29 1775

Sometime since the Ship *Elizabeth* arrived in this Harbour from Granada & was stopped by Capt [Andrew] Barclay Commander of His Majestys Ship the *Scarborough* for having as he said ordnance stores on board & was from hence by him carried to Boston.<sup>2</sup> The freight to a Considerable amount she had on board belonged to different merchants in this Town. The want of having certain necessary Papers Completed prevented the owners of the freight or their Agent from taking Passage in one of those Ships to Boston. They have thot it absolutely necessary to take this only method of Sending Mr Hale the Bearer of this to Boston to personate the owners. I therefore think it reasonable that he be permitted to pass to Boston & desire the Boat & hands be suffered to return –

With much respect &c.

Theod<sup>r</sup> Atkinson, Pres.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 674, 675; *ibid.*, VII, 390.
2. The ship *Elizabeth*, Thomas Ashburn, master, from Grenada for Piscataqua, was acquitted in the Admiralty Court, but her cargo was bought for the British Army. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH <sup>1</sup>

Sir—

Portsmouth, August 29, 1775

I received your Excellency's favour of the 23d, and shall use every method to preserve the peace of town and land. I hope it will not be long ere your return.

I have been importuned to write a few lines to the Commander of His Majesty's guard ship at Nantasket, in favor of Mr. Hale appearing for the freighter of the Ship *Elizabeth*. A copy you have enclosed.

Your Excellency's [&c.]

Theodore Atkinson

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 29 [August, 1775]

Until this period the Admiral had waited with great impatience expecting a large Reinforcement from England with Orders for his future proceedings; and hoping that an Accomodation might yet take place between Great Britain and her Colonies, he had confined his operations to intercepting the Supplies coming to the Rebels, and guarding those intended for the Kings Army, endeavouring by these means, and by granting Convoys to the Transports and other Vessels employed in America in procuring Provisions Fuel and Forage, to relieve the Wants, and thereby assist the Garrison at Boston much as he could. But finding the Provinces were seriously preparing for War, although he was still without the least Instruction for his Guidance respecting the Rebellion he

determined to wait no longer, but to annoy the Enemy in the best manner his small & crippled force would permit; by making Descents within the New England Governments and destroying the Towns on the Sea Coast and the Shipping in the Harbours and Rivers. Indeed the Admiral had been ever desirous of sending forth such Expeditions, and had often by secret confidential Letters home, as well as abroad in discourse with the General, expressed his Wishes for 800 or 1000 Marines or Soldiers to go with the Shipping on these Enterprizes, as the sole means of destroying the Vessels and Craft of the Rebels in narrow Rivers or Creeks, where Ships of Force could not approach from the Shoalness of the Water, and where small Vessels could be destroyed by men posted in Bushes and under Cover of Walls or Banks along the Shore, unless protected by a Body of Soldiers to march upon the Margins of such Rivers and Creeks.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 190, 191, MassHS Transcript.

JAMES COWAN TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

Sir. Please to supply His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, with Six cask of Salt-Pork, and send the same on board as soon as possible. I am Sir [&c.]

James Cowan.

*Glasgow* 29th Augt 1775.

1. Champlin Papers, III, 81, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Martis, 9 HO. A.M. August 29th, 1775.

Whereas, the commander of His Majesty's ship *Asia*, under pretence of protecting the King's property, did in the dead of the night of the 23d inst. most unwarrantably fire on the south part of this defenceless city, whereby three of His Majesty's subjects were wounded, the property of several destroyed and the lives of many exposed to the most imminent danger:

And Whereas, many of the inhabitants under apprehensions that the like hostile conduct may be in future pursued by the commander of the said ship, have been induced to move their wives, children and property out of this city:

And Whereas, from the present temper of the people it is apprehended that the peace of this city may be interrupted and that the lives and property of many be exposed, in case the officers or crew belonging to any of His Majesty's ships should come with their boats to this city:

In order therefore to preserve the peace, quiet the minds of the inhabitants and prevent the officers and men belonging to any of His Majesty's ships that now are, or hereafter may arrive in this port from coming to this city under pretence of procuring supplies, this Congress have thought proper to permit, and they do hereby permit, (agreeable to the former directions of this Congress) that Abraham Lott, Esq. contractor for His Majesty's navy, do in future supply His Majesty's ships stationed here, with all necessaries, as well fresh as salt, for

the use of the said ships; that such supplies be by him sent to the Governor's Island; that they may be taken from thence on board the said ships.

And the inhabitants of this city and Colony are hereby enjoined from using any attempt to prevent the said supplies from being furnished by the said Abraham Lott, or his agent; or for obtaining satisfaction for the injury they have received; as this Congress, duly impressed with a sense thereof, are determined to pursue every prudent and proper measure for preventing the like insults in future; and for obtaining satisfaction and redress.

*Ordered*, That the above resolution be published in hand bills.

*Ordered*, That Abraham De Peyster, of the city of New-York, merchant, have a permit to load the sloop *Charity* with two hundred bushels of corn, four tons of ship bread, two hogsheads of dried cod, and ten dozen of poultry, to the island of Antigua, or some other of the West India islands, subject to such orders, and on having such affidavits made and filed, as have in such cases been directed by this Congress.

*Ordered*, That Messrs. Verplanck and Richard Yates be a committee to consider of the applications of the owners of vessels which are going to sea, and to give them permits agreeable to the resolutions and orders of this Congress.

4 ho.P.M., August 29th, 1775.

Messrs. Thomas Arden and James Arden, having filed such affidavits taken by them with respect to the sloop *Liberty* and her cargo, and is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies, and having also sent into Congress and filed such affidavit of David Bewes, the master of the said sloop *Liberty*, as in such cases are directed by this Congress to be taken by the master of every such vessel.

*Ordered*, That the sloop *Liberty*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Mr. William Malcolm having delivered in such affidavit taken by him, with respect to the sloop *Thistle*, and her cargo, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies; and also delivered in such affidavit of Roger Haddock, the master of the said sloop *Thistle*, as is in such cases directed by this Congress to be taken by the master of every such vessel, which affidavits are filed.

*Ordered*, That the sloop *Thistle* with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Messrs. Henry Remsen and John Read of the city of New-York, merchants, having delivered in such affidavits taken by them with respect to the sloop *Charlotte*, and her cargo, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies; and also delivered in such affidavit of Nathaniel Harriot, the master of the said sloop *Charlotte*, as in such cases is directed by this Congress to be taken by the masters of every such vessel, which affidavits are filed:

*Ordered*, That the sloop *Charlotte*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

AFFIDAVITS OF THE OWNER AND MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Thistle* <sup>1</sup>

I, William Malcom do solemnly and sincerely Swear & declare that I will take every precaution in my power to prevent the Sloop *Thistle* now bound from New York to Saint Eustatia from falling into the possession of or being taken by any vessel of war Belonging to his Majesty. And for this purpose that I will direct Roger Haddock the Master of the said Vessel to proceed immediately from the Hook to the aforesaid place of Destination without Delay (the Danger of the seas only Excepted) So help me God –

W<sup>m</sup> Malcom

Sworn this 29th day of Augt. 1775 Before  
B Blagge

I, Roger Haddock do promise & Swear that I the Master of the Sloop *Thistle* now bound on a Voyage from New York to Saint Eustatia will immediately proceed with the said Vessel to the said place of destination with the Utmost Dispatch in my power (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) & will take every precaution in my power to prevent the said Vessel from being taken by any Armed Vessel belonging to his Majesty, so help Me God –

Roger Haddock

Sworn this 29th day of Augt – 1775  
B Blagge

[Endorsed] Augt 29th 1775 Sloop *Thistle* Affidavits of Owner & Master permit delivered

1. Marine Miscellany, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 29th 1775

This Board thought proper to reconsider the articles for the Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on board the provincial Armed Boats, and after some amendments, were order'd to be transcribed for the press, which was accordingly done, and are as follows:

## In Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania

Whereas, the Arbitrary and Tyrannical proceedings of the British Ministry, in attempting to reduce the good people of America into a state of abject Slavery and Vassalage, has met with a righteous and Spirited Opposition from the twelve united Colonies by their Delegates in Congress, who, by their resolves of the 18th July, recommended to the Assemblies or Conventions, or in their recess, to the Committees of Safety, to devise and provide such means for defending the Lives, Liberties, and properties of their respective inhabitants, as may to them seem best in compliance with this recommendation; and in consequence of the powers vested in this Committee by Resolve of the Assembly of this Province, they have caused Sundry Boats to be Built and Armed for the defence of the Same, and the protection of its commerce; which Boats being now ready for service, it remains that they be immediately

manned and equiped: *Therefore*, to encourage good and brave Men to engage freely in this Glorious Service, the following Rules and Regulations are offered by the said Committee:

1st. All Officers and Privates in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats, being guilty of profane Oaths, Cursing Drunkenness or other scandalous actions, shall incur such punishment as the nature and degree of the offence shall deserve, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

2nd. Any Officer or Private who shall strike the Commander-in-Chief or other his Superior Officer, or draw, or offer to draw, or lift up any weapon, or use any violence against him, or shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect to him, them, or either of them, being in the execution of their office, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

3rd. If any Person in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats shall raise, or endeavour to raise a Mutiny, on any pretence whatever, or shall disobey any lawful commands of his Superior Officer, he shall, on conviction thereof, suffer such punishment as shall be order'd by a Court Martial.

4th. Any Officer or Private who shall, without leave of his Commanding Officer, absent himself from the Boat or other Vessell to which he belongs, or from any detachment of the same, or shall advise or persuade any other officer or private so to do, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

5th. Every Person in the Fleet who shall Mutiny in time of action, or who through Cowardice, disaffection, or negligence, shall at such time withdraw or keep back, or not come into the fight or Engagement, or shall not do his utmost to take or destroy any Ship, Boat or other Vessell which it shall be his duty to engage, or shall endeavour to persuade or deter others from doing their duty at such a time, shall suffer Death.

6th. Every Person who shall desert to the Enemy, or shall intice others so to do, shall suffer Death, or such other punishment as the circumstances of the offence shall deserve, and a Court Martial think fit.

7th. Any Officer or Private who shall be convicted of holding any correspondence with, or giving intelligence to the Enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer Death, or such punishment as shall be order'd by a Court Martial.

8th. Every Officer or Private who shall be convicted of having designedly or carelessly wasted or imbezzled the ammuniton, arms, stores, or provisions belonging to any of the Boats, shall suffer such punishment as a Court Martial shall think proper for the offence.

9th. Whatever Officer shall be found Drunk on Guard or under Arms, shall be Cashier'd; and any Private so offending, shall be punish'd at the discretion of a Court Martial.

10th. No Person in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats shall sleep upon his watch, or forsake his post, on pain of such punishment as a Court Martial shall think fit to impose.

11th. Any Officer or Private who shall, by discharging Fire Arms, beating of Drums, or by any other means, occasion false alarms, shall suffer such punishment as shall be inflicted by a Court Martial.

12th. All Officers, of what condition soever, shall have power to part and quell all quarrels, affrays and disorders, though the persons concern'd should belong to another Boat, and order Officers to be arrested and Non-Commission'd Officers or Privates to be confined 'till their proper Superior Officers shall be acquainted therewith, & whoever shall refuse to obey such Officer, though of an Inferior rank, or shall draw his sword, or lift up any weapon against him, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

13th. If any inferior Officer or Private shall think himself wronged by the Commander of the Boat to which he belongs, he may apply to the Commander-in-Chief, who is to redress his grievance.

14th. All Officers shall take Rank from the date of their Commissions.

15th. All Ships and other Vessells, and their Cargoes, ammunition, Artillery, cloathing, or other articles taken from the enemy, shall be disposed of or distributed as the Provincial Assembly shall hereafter think proper.

16th. If any Officer or Private shall commit any crime deserving punishment, he shall by his commanding officer be put under arrest if an officer or a non-commission'd Officer or Private, be put in confinement, till he shall be tried by a Court Martial or discharg'd by proper authority.

17th. If any Officer under arrest shall leave his confinement before he is set at liberty by the Officer who confined him, or by proper authority, he shall be cashier'd.

18th. Any Officer who shall presume to discharge any Prisoner committed to his charge without proper authority for so doing, or shall suffer any prisoner to escape, shall be punished at the discretion of a Court Martial.

19th. If any commission'd Officer shall be convicted before a Court Martial of behaving in a scandalous, infamous, cruel, oppressive or fraudulent manner, unbecoming the character of an Officer, he shall be dismiss'd from the Service.

20th. All Crimes not Capital, and all disorders and neglect which officers and privates may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and Military discipline, though not mention'd in these articles, shall be taken notice of by a Court Martial, and punished, according to the nature of the Offence.

21st. No Persons to be sentenced by a Court Martial to suffer Death, except in the cases expressly mention'd in the foregoing articles, nor shall any other punishment be inflicted, at the discretion of a court martial, other than degrading, cashiering, drumming out of the fleet, whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine Lashes, fine, not exceeding two months' pay, and imprisonment, not exceeding one month.

22nd. The Commanding Officer of each Boat shall appoint some suitable person to receive all such fines as may arise within the same, for breach of any of these articles, which fines shall be accounted for to the assembly or Committee of Safety, and by them be appropriated for the relief of the maimed

and disabled in the Service, and the Support of the widows and families of such as may be killed.

23rd. No Court Martial for the trial of offences under the degree of Capital, shall consist of less than five Officers, except in cases where that number cannot be conveniently assembled, when three may be sufficient, who are to determine on the sentence by a Majority of Voices, and in all trials for Capital Offences, the Court Martial shall be composed of thirteen Officers, and the sentence be determined by at least two-thirds.

24th. All Persons belonging to the Boats, called as Witnesses in any case before a Court Martial, who shall refuse to attend and give evidence, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

25th. All Members of a Court Martial are to behave with Calmness, decency and impartiality, and in giving their Votes, are to begin with the youngest or lowest in Commission, and all Officers of different Boats are to rank in Court Martial according to their Commissions.

26th. All Members sitting in a Court Martial shall be sworn or affirmed by the president of said Court, which president shall himself be sworn or affirmed by the Officer next in Rank in said Court, the Oath or affirmation to be administer'd previous to their proceeding to the trial of any offender, in form, viz: "You, A.B., Swear or affirm that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine the cause of the Prisoner now to be tried, according to the Rules framed for the Regulation of the Pennsylvania Fleet, (if an oath add) so help you God."

27th. The President of the Court Martial shall administer the following Oath or affirmation to all persons called to give evidence: "You Swear or affirm that the evidence you shall give in the cause now trying, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (if an oath add,) so help you God."

28th. No Person shall suffer Death, agreeable to the Sentence of a Court Martial (except in the cases mention'd in the 5th Article), till the Sentence is confirmed by the assembly, or in their recess by the Committee of Safety.

29th. The Commander of each Boat shall, in the beginning of every month, make a faithful return to the Committee of Safety, of the Men employed in his Boat, to be sign'd by himself, and upon being convicted of having made a false return, shall be discharged from the service, and if he neglect to make a return within the month, shall be fined, at the discretion of said Committee.

30th. No Officer or Private shall be tried a second time for the same offence.

We, the underwritten, having seen and distinctly heard the foregoing Articles read, and fully understanding the contents thereof, Do freely and Voluntarily subject ourselves to all and every of the Rules, Regulations, and restrictions therein contained. In Witness whereof, we hereunto subscribe our names.

The Officers and Privates to enter into the Service for two Months, and until they shall be discharged by the Assembly or Committee of Safety.

*Resolved*, That William Bradford print on good paper, one hundred of the Articles for the Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on board the Armed Boats.

*Ordered*, That Mr. [Robert] Towers provide twenty rounds of Cartridges for each of the following Field Pieces, Viz't: two Twelve Pounders and four Six Pounders, And Forty Rounds of Cartridges for the Great Guns of the Armed Boats, consisting of 1 32 Pounder, 4 24 Pounders, and 8 18 Pounders. And that he procure a Mold for the Fire Locks for the use of the Boats, and cast 1200 Ball, and fill the Cartridges for the same.

*Resolved*, That Robert Pomeroy be appointed a Lieutenant on Board one of the Armed Boats.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Nathan Boyce be appointed Lieutenant on board the Armed Boat, the *Washington*, commanded by Capt. [Henry] Dougherty.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 323-327.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Hillsborough] Tuesday August 29th 1775

Whereas some doubts may arise respecting the Construction of the fourth Article of the Continental Association relating to Exportation.

*Resolved* that it is the opinion of this Congress that no ship or vessel shall clear out, or take on Board any part of their Cargoes after the tenth day of September 1775; but that vessels actually laden or their Cargoes on Board lighters, and cleared out before that day, may sail at any time after.

1. Saunders, *Records of North Carolina*, X, 183.

#### 30 Aug.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,  
COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

August 1775

Moored at Montreal

Wedy 30th

this day I went with two Petty Officers and some Seamen to St Johns to assist in launching & rigging some Vessels building there for the defence of the Province <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

2. This is the final entry in the journal. Lieutenant Hunter was taken prisoner in November when St. Johns fell to the American army, and the *Gaspee* was taken, when Montreal was subdued shortly afterwards.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE  
NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Camp at Cambridge Augt 30th 1775.

Your Favour of the 21st Inst. is duely received inclosing Mr Carter's Information of the Capture of the *Charming Sally*, which from the Circumstances attending it, was undoubtedly collusive. I have received Advice that another

Vessel belonging to one White at Marblehead whose ostensible Voyage was to Casco Bay, was carried in soon after. Such Instances of Avarice at such a Time, & in such a Cause, call for a severe Scrutiny & exemplary Punishment.

Mr Livingston & some other Gentlemen from your City brought us the acceptable News of the Arrival of a large Quantity of Powder, and five Hundred Stand of Arms.

Our Situation is such as requires your immediate assistance and Supply in that Article. We have lately taken Possession of a Hill considerably advanced towards the Enemy, but our Poverty prevents our availing ourselves of any Advantage of [the] Situation. I must therefore most earnestly entreat that Measures may be taken to forward to this Camp in the most safe & expeditious Manner whatever Ammunition can be spared from the immediate & necessary Defence of the Province. The Value of whatever may be sent in Consequence of this Request, will be paid by order from hence when delivered, or negotiated with the Honble Continental Congress at Philada as may be agreed with the Proprietors. I only request that no Time may be lost thro' any such difficulties, as our Situation is so critical, & the Exigencies so great. The Mode of Conveyance I must leave with the Provincial Congress or the Committee of the City. I doubt not they will take every Precaution to make it safe & expeditious.

I have the Honour to be Sir, [&c.]

G<sup>o</sup> Washington

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence, August 30th, 1775

Sir, — Your Excellency's letter of the 14th instant is now before me, the contents of which I have duly considered. When it came to hand our small sloop-of-war was out upon the cruise which I mentioned to your Excellency in a former letter. She hath since returned. The sending her on the enterprize you proposed could not be done, without some new and further powers from the General Assembly, which sat here last week; and the nature of the business was such that I did not think proper to lay it before so large a body. I therefore procured a committee to be appointed to transact all business necessary for the common safety during the recess of the Assembly, particularly with power to employ the two vessels of war in such service as they should think necessary. The committee is summoned to meet this day before whom I shall lay your letter. At present the undertaking appears to me to be extremely difficult. The most suitable man we have for the purpose is confined to his bed by sickness. We have accounts that a number of vessels have sailed lately from Boston, which we apprehend, are designed to plunder the stock along the coast. The General Assembly have ordered it all to be removed from all the islands in this Colony excepting Rhode Island. We have now about three hundred men employed in that business . . .

The vessel our small sloop was cruising for, arrived on the 28th inst., at Norwich. She hath brought powder, lead, flints and small arms. What quantity of each I am not certain. They are now on their way by land.

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 119, 120.

MINUTES OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to act during the Recess of the Assembly held in the Council Chamber in Providence on Wednesday August 30, 1775

Voted that The Honbly Nicho. [Cooke] <sup>2</sup> Ambrose Page Esqr. & Col. John Mathewson be a Commtee To Appoint Persons Vessel and all things Necessary in Order to proceed a Voige any place where they Shall See proper there to procure a Quantity of Gun Powder &c. <sup>3</sup>

1. RIHS.

2. The last name of the Deputy Governor was omitted by the Secretary.

3. On Aug. 31, the Committee promised an extra month's wages to the seamen provided the voyage was successful, *ibid.*

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] Aug 30 [1775].

The Rh[ode] Isld Assembly which Sat at providence last Week were in profound Secrecy Gov. [Samuel] Ward one of the Continental Congress laid before the Assembly Some of the schemes Conceiving in the Congress. There are in America Secret negotiations for foreign powers, which have actually offered their Assistance to the Americans, & if the Congress' petition to the king shall prove without effect, & the Parl[imen]t determine to prosecute the War, The Congress have in Contemplation, by Public proclamation to throw open their Trade to all the World; perhaps also to Enter into alliance with the States of Holland.

About IV this Afternoon many p'rsons heard the firing of Canon at a Distance as they were standing on the Wharfs in this Town. One Man said he Counted above fifty. – It is a heavy thick Air, has rained much to day, & not yet Cleared off, but Seems in the midst of an August Storm. – Two of our Men o' War went out yesterday for Block Island.

1. Stiles, III, 75, LC.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" <sup>1</sup>

August 1775

At Single Anchor in Stonington Harbor

Wedsday 30

at 8 A M Anchd in Stoningtown Harbour 3 fm soft bottom the T[end]rs Chac'd a Sloop alongside the Wharfs, was fir'd at which they return'd, at 10 we brought our broadside to bear upon the Town and fir'd, the Tenders brought 3 Schooners off from the Wharfs.

P M the Rebels continued firing upon the Tenders, which we returned by firing into the Town, at 7 weigh'd and drop't further out into the Road, as did the Tenders

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

MAJOR OLIVER SMITH TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. <sup>1</sup>

(Copy) [Stonington] Wednesday [August 30, 1775] 11 o'Clock forenoon.

Sir The Tenders under your Command before your coming in fired on the Town without any Provocation from the people here when some few Musket shot was unadvertently returned. – We know not how Matters are represented to

you, we mean to do what is consistent with Honour. We are a Naked Town with a distress'd parcel of Women and Children and at the Mercy of the Fire from the Ships and Tenders. – We trust were matters rightly represented you would desist firing on the Town. –

I am Sir [&c.]

Oliver Smith Major

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO MAJOR OLIVER SMITH<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

His Majesty's Ship *Rose* Stonington August 30th 1775.

Sir, I have received your Letter of this Instant wherein you say the Tenders under my Command have fired upon the Town without any provocation. *Firing upon them and Wounding them* is not this provocation they are all ready to make Oath you fired upon them first. I saw firing from several parts of the Town, they even foolishly fired upon the King's Ship. The Honor of Great Britain, Duty to my King and Country, make the part I have taken absolutely Necessary, it depends upon yourselves whether it is to continue; God grant you a due Sense of your duty to your King and Country and Obedience to the Laws which cannot fail to make you Great and happy. I am Sir [&c.]

Ja<sup>s</sup> Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MAJOR OLIVER SMITH TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Stonington Long Point Augst 30th 1775 3 oClock afternoon

Sir I have received yours in Answer to mine And do assure you upon Honour that what I wrote you relative to your Tenders firing on us was a real fact to be attested by all the people then present. – When they came in the Second Time and you had got into the Harbour the Tenders came and took two Vessels within Pistol shot of the Wharf. My positive Orders were not to fire, We expected the Men from the Tenders would not persist in carrying the Vessels away which they promised they would not. – The Lives of your Men then on board the Schooner were all at our Mercy – We had assurance from the people then aboard that no Guns should be fired by them, but your three Tenders, Nevertheless begun a fire of all their Guns on us, when some returned the fire. You say it depends on our pleasure whether the fire should Cease. We have not begun any fire, We are free and determined to desist from firing and we now assure you that no person shall be permitted to fire at the Kings Ship or any of His peaceable Subjects. We profess ourselves Dutiful Subjects to His Majesty George the third, and are disposed as such, to keep the peace and prevent any disturbance, and shall take no part but such as His Majesty's Subjects have a right to do in their own defence. I am Sir [&c.]

Oliver Smith, Major

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO MAJOR OLIVER SMITH <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

'Tis impossible I can give you any other answer to yours, while you are firing upon our people, but that of returning it.

Yours

Ja<sup>s</sup> Wallace

Rose Augt 30th 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Honble Sir

N London Augt 30 1775 4 Cl P M

This morning early Cannon was fired in the Eastern board, & have continued firing ever since & in the last hour about 40 – we had advice a 12 C, that a Man of Warr & a tender, were firing on the Houses at the Point in Stonington without provocation unless it was that the people had brot Stock (a small mater) from Block Island, off Block Island yesterday appeared a number of Transport Ships, & scarce any Stock taken from thence, probably they there have with the men sent from the main upwards of 300 men, at Stonington probably 200, Majr [Jonathan] Latimere marcht one half his men abt 200, for Stonington by my advice instantly on the Express from Stoningtons Arrival – his Troops have not half a pound Powder P man – (not a Cask of Powder in this Town) – for the Troops march't, or those remaining in Town –

Your Honors wisdom will furnish the Article of Powder, or we can make not the least defence even with Firelocks –

The Cannon constantly firing –

This waits on Your Honr by express from [&c.]

G Saltonstall

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

“EXTRACT OF A PRIVATE LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 30, 1775” <sup>1</sup>

By the ship which brings you this you will undoubtedly receive the New York Papers containing an account of the conduct of Captain [George] Vandeput of the *Asia*, in firing on the town to stop the removal of the cannon which were carrying away by order of the Congress. These papers speak very disrespectfully of the Captain's behaviour; but I assure you they have treated him with great injustice, by charging him with cruelty and inhumanity. The case was briefly and truly this: Captain Vandeput being informed that the people were removing his Majesty's cannon, &c. he fired only a few shots into the town by way of intimidation, and to stop their progress, notwithstanding which they actually moved off near twenty pieces, and but three of the provincials were slightly wounded; whereas had [he] been cruel or inhuman, he could soon have destroyed the whole town. A thief might with as much truth and reason complain of the cruelty of a man who should knock him down for robbing him! But the Patriots here constantly misrepresent every thing; and our news-papers contain very little to be depended on.

1. *London Chronicle*, Oct. 19 to Oct. 21, 1775.



MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, August 20th [1775].

Ordered that Colo. [George] Ross & Capt. [Robert] White be a Committee to draw up instructions for the Commander-in-Chief & the Captains of the Boats, a list of warrant Officers, and pay of Officers and Men.

Order'd that Mr. [George] Gray & Mr. [Owen] Biddle draw up a plan for supplying and regulating the provisions for Boats' Crews.

*Resolved*, That the Boat built by Mr. [Joseph] Marsh be called the *Warren*.

*Resolved*, That Captain Allen Moore be removed from the Armed Boat called the *Experiment*, to the command of the Boat called the *Effingham*.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 327, 328.

JOSEPH P. WHITALL TO DANIEL MAJOR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

(Copy original P Seymour <sup>2</sup>)

Philad 30 Aug. 1775

*Have now to advise you of sending my Brother out in a small Schooner with load Bread & flour saild 19 Inst for Hispaniola in order to engage a peceil <sup>3</sup> of Powder also to sell his goods there if in demand, if not to proceed for Kingston & there to put the Cargo under your care provided you have complyd with my request 8 ult. – Also to take on board a quany of Coffee & if Powder to be had at Kingston he will take it on board there – in which case he need not stop at Hispan for any on his return here – I observe what you say in regard to Coffee & shoud my Brother not be with you when this gets to hand request you will imediately purchase 50 or 60,000 wt on our Joint accounts but expect you will be able to get it for 42/6 to 45/ a price that I am offerd any Quany. at from Kingston in letter receiv'd P Seymour & expect it will be still lower by the time this is with you – great care must be taken to have it green and of a good Qualy. clear of Black Grains – my Brother is to go down for Kingston whether he sells his cargo in Hispaniola or not in order to take in Coffee some Hides & some Beet sugar in order to conceal the Powder also to get a regular clearance for Philad – but if any accident has befell him on his passage out I shale [have] time for your answer to this before the winter Setts in, and I may send a small vessel on purpose for this coffee and as much Powder as tis Possible to procure, & if no oppoy to advise me in time you can charter a small vessel for the purpose – but it must be a good one & well found to come on this coast in the winter of this shall write you more fully in the course of a few days, it will be well worth our attention to endeavor to get in Some Powder here after 10th Sepr the Nt proceeds of which the Congress will permit me to export, in our produce to which market I please <sup>4</sup> – my expectations of getting Powder in here, which will enable me to ship of our produce after 10th Sepr at abot half the price is bears at present has in some measure made me decline speculating in the manner I advised you I shoud, but refer you to my Brother for the principal reason – shoud the Jam. Packet arrive in time shall put a valuable cargo on board her & if not till after the 10th shall retain her here till I have some Powder come to hand which expect will be latter end of Septemr unless I am disappointed – and if I am shall retain her here untill the arrival of*

my Brother which expect you will endeavor to make Soon as Possible - , . . . refer you to my Brother & the inclosed papers for Political News . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 66c. This letter was found on board the brig *Sea Nymph*, Joseph Bradford, master, which sailed from Philadelphia, Sept. 9, 1775, and was taken off Cape Henry, Sept. 20, by H.M.S. *Mercury*.
2. The sloop *Peggy*, S. Seymour, master, which cleared the Delaware Capes just prior to Aug. 30, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, Aug. 30, 1775.
3. Probably the British copyist's mistake for "parcel."
4. The italicized phrases and sentences were underscored by Vice Admiral Graves when he forwarded the letters to England.

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1775<sup>1</sup>

Norfolk, August 30.

L - - d D - - - - - e has lately made seizure of another vessel belonging to Messrs. Eilbeck, Ross, and Co. for Government service forsooth!

The goods imported in the snow *Unicorn*, seized by L - - d D - - - - - e as above mentioned, were ordered by the Norfolk borough Committee to be immediately returned in the same vessel; but his L - - p has taken care to prevent that, by laying his hands upon the goods and converting them to his own use, and the vessel, we hear, is intended for St. Augustine to bring the remainder of the 14th regiment.

It appearing that the above goods imported in the *Unicorn*, had been countermanded by Messrs. Eilbeck, Ross, and Co. the Committee of this borough have acquitted them in this instance of any breach of the [Continental] Association.

A correspondent writes, that a certain sloop of war, not 100 miles distant, was lately kept in constant alarm a whole night, with her matches burning, tompkins out, guns loaded with grape shot, and all hands at their quarters, till day light discovered the formidable enemy which had caused such terrible apprehensions, to be only one of the neighbors with his negroes catching Mulletts! A certain governor, it is said, was in all haste sent for, to assist with his sage advice at the council of war that was held on this mighty occasion.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS GRANT GORDON, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esq. Vice Adml of the Red & Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships and Vessels employ'd & to be employ'd at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands, & in the Seas adjacent.

You are hereby required and directed to compleat the Provisions Wood & Water on board His Majts Ship *Argo*, under your command to three Months & then sail to the Island of Barbadoes, & immediately on your arrival there deliver His Excellency Govr [Edward] Hay, the Letter you will receive herewith, directed to him and procure his Answer thereto, you are likewise during your stay at Barbadoes to apply again to William Senhouse Esq. Surveyor General of the Customs &c. for the Deputations you was directed to procure from him by my order to you dated the 17th June last, and after having perform'd these Services at Barbadoes, You are to proceed without loss of time to the Island Grenada, & there deliver to the Honble William Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Southern Caribbee Islands &c. the dispatch you will herewith receive, directed to Him, & having receiv'd his Answer thereto, You are to

return and join me in English Harbour, You are during the Hurricane Season to take care not to be at Sea at the time of the full and change of the Moon, but spend that time in such manner as will be most consistent with the Service you are employ'd on, & the safety of the Ship you command, you are at all times to be careful & diligent in executing the Orders you receive from me dated the 17th June last, and in addition thereto, are hereby further required and directed, to search all Vessels whatever which you may fall in with, that are bound to North America & are strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder or other Warlike Stores, and should you find any such on board, you are to seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me to this Place, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my hand on board the *Portland* in English harbour Antigua 30th Augt 1775.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

By command of the Admiral

Geo. Lawford

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

Sir *Portland*, English Harbour Antigua the 30th August 1775.

In Consequence of the Letter I received from Captain [Henry] Bryne of the *Pomona* Sloop the 4th Instant, (of which I inclosed a Copy to you for their Lordships perusal the 8th August p the *Creighton*, Ross, Master) setting forth that a Schooner from North America arrived at the Island St Croix, in Order to procure Gunpowder for America; and offering any Money for the Purchase &c, and it having since then, been intimated to me by Persons of Credit, at this place; that it is believed The North American Traders, do procure Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores from this Island, and His Majesty's other Charibbee Islands; in these Seas; as well as from the French, Dutch, and Danish Islands. I have therefore in Order to prevent, (as far as I may be able) a practice so pernicious and dangerous to His Majesty's Service, wrote to the Governors, and the Commanders in Chief of all His Majesty's Charibbee Islands, to acquaint them with my having received the above information; and requested, they may immediately direct proclamations to be issued through the different Islands in their respective Governments, to forbid the Exportation of Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores, from any of them, for the Space of Six Months: and I have given Orders to the Captains of his Majesty's Ships *Lynx*, *Pomona*, and *Argo*; to search all Vessels they may fall in with; that are bound to America; and strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder; or other Warlike Stores; and should they find any such, to Seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me; I have inclosed herewith to you Copies of said Letters and Orders; and request you will lay them before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; who, I hope will approve of what I have done in this matter; and as their' Lordships will perceive by the Letter to me from the President and Council of the Island Antigua, Dated St John's Council Chamber, 17th August, 1775, they express "that they have no

Authority to prevent the Buying and Selling of Merchandize which has been fairly imported" under which description I presume they wish to include Gunpowder and Warlike Stores; and to insinuate that private Adventurers are at full liberty to sell them as Merchandize to whomsoever they please; and some of them, I am told likewise assert in Common discourse, they have no knowledge, but from report; and rumour; that the People of North America are in open Rebellion; as the same has not been Officially Notified to them by Authority; from these Circumstances it is probable, Should His Majesty's Ships under my Command; in pursuance of the Orders I have given them, make Seizure of any American Vessels having Gunpowder &c. on board; The people concerned therein will litigate and question the legality of the Seizures, and thereby put me to much trouble and Expence; however as it appeared to me of the utmost Consequence to the good of His Majesty's Service, that a practice so dishonourable and dangerous, should be immediately prevented, and put a Stop to; so I have no doubt but their Lordships will fully approve of the Orders I have issued; and give me all necessary Support to carry them into Execution.

During the present Hurricane Season I can do little more with the Kings Ships under my Command, then sending them to the Southern Islands for Security; but their Lordships may depend so soon as the danger of Hurricanes is over I will employ them in such manner as shall appear to me most useful to the Kings Service.

I much further desire you will represent to their Lordships that should the present troubles in America Continue, the Squadron under my Command is much too small to prevent effectually the Exportation of Ammunition &c. from all the Islands within the Extent of my Command, and that I intreat their Lordships will be pleased to encrease the Number of Ships to be employed in these Seas, and thereby enable me, to put an End to a Trade so very pernicious, and prevent for the future any Supply of Ammunition and Warlike Stores to be carried from hence to the North Americans: during their present unnatural Hostilities. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty, 1/309. A copy containing the first paragraph only is in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 52b.

CRAISTER GREATHEAD, GOVERNOR OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG<sup>1</sup>

(A Copy)

St Christophers, 30th Augt 1775.

Sir I received your Letter of the 22d August on Sunday last about four of the clock in the afternoon, and them immediately appointed a meeting of His Majts Council to be held in the town of Basseterre yesterday but there being no more than five members in this island, and one of them is so bad a state of health as to render him unable to attend, which I knew nothing of till the time appointed for the meeting, there was not a Board to consider the subject matter of your letter, and to give me their opinion thereupon, and being in doubt whether such a proclamation as you desire me to issue would be compulsory upon the people of this Government or not, as the Act of Parliament on which

Portland, English Harbour Antigua the  
30<sup>th</sup> August 1775.

Sir

[In consequence of the Letter I received  
from Captain Bryne, of the Pomona Hoop the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant  
(of which I enclosed a copy to you for their Lordships  
perusal the 8<sup>th</sup> August of the Brighton, Profs. Master)  
setting forth that a Schooner from North America,  
arrived at the Island S<sup>t</sup> Croix, in order to procure Gun  
powder for America; and offering any Money for the  
Purchase &c, and it having since then, been intimated to  
me by Persons of Credit, at this place, that it is believed,  
The North American Traders, do procure Gunpowder and  
other Warlike Stores from this Island, and His Majesty's  
other Charibbee Islands, in these Seas; as well as from the  
French, Dutch, and Danish Islands. I have therefore in

Your most Obedient  
Humble Servant  
James Young

to Stephens Esq<sup>r</sup>.

His Majesty's Order in Council is grounded does not extend to this part of His Dominions, I have thought proper to write to Mr Warner, His Majts Attorney General by this opportunity, to desire his opinion and advice upon this important Business, and hope when I receive his answer I shall be able to get a meeting of the Council here and will then determine what to do. In the mean time you may be assured I shall be very ready to exert every means in my power to prevent the North Americans from being supplied in any degree with Ammunition and Warlike Stores at this time when they are in open Rebellion.

I am very glad to find from a Letter I have received from Mr President [Thomas] Jarvis dated the 24th Instant that there is no reason to believe they have had any supplies of Gun Powder from the island of Antigua and from the strictest enquiry I have been able to make there is none at any of the Forts in this Island, excepting a very little belonging to private Traders in the Magazines of Fort Londonderry near the town of Basseterre from whence no more than two Kegs of 25lb each have issued for a considerable time past and they went out at different Periods of time, I am with great regard Sir [&c.]

Craister Greathead

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

**31 Aug.**

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CLARK & NIGHTINGALE, PROVIDENCE MERCHANTS <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen.

Camp at Cambridge August 31st 1775

Hearing that you have imported a Quantity of Powder, Lead & Small Arms I have dispatched Capt [George] Bayler, one of my Aids de Camp to treat with you for it, Whatever Engagement he shall enter into for the whole or any part I will confirm: And upon Delivery to him your Bills drawn on me for the Price agreed on shall be honor'd on the Shortest Notice – I am Gent: [&c.]

G W

1. Washington Papers, LC.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1775

Cambridge, August 31.

By a gentleman from Dartmouth, we hear, that a few Days ago, as one of the piratical Ships of war (supposed to be the *King-Fisher*) was passing up the Sound between Martha's-Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands, she stood into Tarpaulin Cove, close in with one of the Houses, where stood a Number of People without Arms, looking at the Ship; when, without the least Provocation they received a Number of Cannon Balls, and some Musket Shot, from the Ship, which obliged them to secure themselves: After which the Ship fired a Number of Cannon Shot at the House some, of which went through the same, and damaged several Barrels of Provisions &c. but happily no Person was killed or wounded. – As

soon as this was done, the ship immediately put about and came to Anchor at a considerable Distance from the Shore, and soon after made off.<sup>1</sup>

1. The assailant was the *Kingsfisher*; see her log for Aug. 18, 1775.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO SAMUEL WARD AND STEPHEN HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence August 31st 1775.

By a Letter from General Washington I was informed that Three Ships of War and Nine Transports sailed from Boston the beginning of last Week. As the Enemy are greatly distressed for Want of fresh Provisions I conjectured this Fleet was designed to supply them; and immediately sent a Quantity of Powder, Ball and Flints to Block Island to enable the Inhabitants to defend themselves, and gave them Assurances of further Aid if necessary. As this Fleet hath not been heard of on our Coasts I imagine they are destined to the Eastward.

Two of the Men of War were cruizing yesterday and the Day before, in the River and came up above Kinnimicut Point. As it is possible for them to come near enough to fire upon the Town our Attention is strongly turned to the erecting of a Fortification below. I some Time since forwarded to you a Plan of the River, and should be glad to know the Sentiments of the Congress upon that Subject, and whether the erecting a Fortification, which would not be a very expensive one will be considered as a Continental Expence, as I am clearly of Opinion it ought to be.

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

At a Come. to act during the Recess of the Genl. Assembly

Augt. 31. 1775 D.Mowry Cle[r]k

whereas it appears To this Committee that George Rome of Newport Merchant hath made it his Constant practice for Some Time Past To Supply the Enemies of this Country with Provisions and other supplies whereby they are Better Enabled To prosecute their hostile Intentions against us –

It is Therefore *Resolved* by this Committee that Daniel Mowry Junr. Esqr. Take with him such Aid and Assistance as he shall Think fit and With them Repair To Newport aforesd. And Take the Said George Rome into Custody, and Bring Before this Committee for further Direction and his honour the Deputy Governor is hereby Requested [to] Issue his Warrant for Effecting the purpose aforesd –

1. RIHS.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] Aug 31. [1775]

The firing yesterday was by the infamous Cap [James] Wallace of the *Rose* man o' war who chased a Vessel into Stonington Harbour where are about 60 or 70 Dwelling Houses, somewhat Compact. The inhuman Wretch fired on this defencelss place.

1. Stiles, III, 76, LC.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir, —

New London, August 31st, 1775. A.M. 6 o'clock.

Yesterday morning we heard cannon firing and supposed it was off Block Island, and at eleven o'clock had advice that one man of war and three cutters were cannonading the houses at the Point in Stonington. The firing continued until 5 o'clock P.M. with very little cessation. We hear their landing was opposed by 200 men. Immediately on the first advice, I advised Major [Jonathan] Lat[timer] to march one half the troops under his command, about two hundred men, to Stonington, which he instantly did. Have no advice from thence, since three o'clock yesterday. It's said a number of the enemy were killed on attempting to land, by the musketry; the Americans had no cannon.

The best account I can collect of the beginning of the dispute is, that the cutters chased into that harbor a boat from Block Island, with stock on board, and finding a vessel with molasses on board near the wharf, aground, immediately on her floating brought her to sale and sent her off; and then, stretched backwards and forwards and gave the town their broadsides; then stretched out, met a man of war, (supposed Wallace,) and they all came into the harbor; Wallace came to, with a spring on his cable, and fired on the town incessantly until 5 o'clock.

We are told a large number of transports were yesterday cruising round Block Island. There is very little stock taken off from thence. They have been re-inforced with 200 men, and one hundred Islanders makes them probably able to prevent losing their stock, which they were endeavouring to take off. General [David] Wooster is no doubt encamped with four hundred men at Montauge [Montauk]. The stock from Gardner's and Plumb Island, undoubtedly removed. Advice from Gen. Washington to Gov. Trumbull, that transports were bound this way, was dispatched Friday last [August 25] to Gen. Wooster, then at Southold, and to the Committee of Suffolk County, from the Committee in this town.

Six o'clock P.M. About ten o'clock this day, the *Rose*, Capt. [James] Wallace, and three cutters with a few vessels taken at Stonington, left that harbor and anchored at west side Fisher's Island, where they probably are. The houses at Stonington much shattered; none actually demolished. It is extremely difficult to know the first of the action, notwithstanding what's within written; rather think the case was thus; the cutters chased in two Rhode Island packet boats, that carried 250 troops of theirs from Stonington harbor, and landed them on Block Island the night before, although the *Rose* and the cutters endeavoured to prevent it: when the cutters were in port, they took two molasses vessels, and went to the wharf to take other vessels, and it's most probable were forbid, which no doubt produced high threats; and on their persisting, it's my opinion the Americans fired on them and did execution, as they immediately pushed off, and firing some cannon went out of harbor; met the *Rose*, probably east of Watch Hill, and she then stood in for the harbour with the cutters, and having got in, fired as within mentioned.

A flag went on board the *Rose* at noon, to know why she fired on the houses; Capt. Wallace said he did so in his defence, and shewed the officer four of his

dead men, and one that had his arm much torn; (these men, I apprehend, were killed in the first action, and the cutter going out with them to the *Rose*, brought Capt. Wallace in to the demolition of the town.)

Immediately after the flag returned, the cannonading was renewed with the utmost vigor, until 5 o'clock. We had two men only wounded; one of them, as said, mortally. By sunset last evening there were at the place of action, eight hundred, some say one thousand men, well armed.

The inhabitants are moving their effects out of this town, with the greatest diligence. We shall not want men for our defence; but as we have no stock of powder, cannot use the cannon we have, but shall do the best we can with musketry, if attacked.

Last week arrived Capt. Nichols of Providence, with about seven tons powder, that he landed at Norwich, and it went by land, about Friday, to Providence. . . .

Your most obedient

G. Saltonstall.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, II, 298–300.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Honble Sir

New London Augt 31. 1775 PM. 6. Clock

Majr [Jonathan] Latimers detachment reached Ston harbor Last evening about sunset, & by that time there was 800 Men under Arms, the Canonading ceased above 5 C. yesterday the Enemy had 4 men kiled, & one lost a hand – of the Colenys Troops 2 wounded, one of wch sd Mortaly.

This morning about 9 Clock the *Rose* Capt. [James] Wallace 3 tenders & 4 small prises stood out of the harbor & came too under N W. part of Fishers Island and are probably now there – At 2 Clock last night recd from Colo [Jabez] Huntington 2 bbs Powder its now in my Store & shall be husbanded in best manner for the Publick.

Its uncertain who gave the first fire at Stonington, its most probable to me that on the Cutters taking prises in the Road, & going to take more at the Wharfs, high words arose & they persisting Imagine our Troops fired & kiled the above men, as the Cutters imedeately after probably fired on the Town, & then pushed out to the *Rose* without watch hill, & on giveing her accot of the matter they all stood in to the harbor, & Canonaded violently, about 12 Cl. a Flag went on board to know why he fired on them, & his reply was that he was on the defencive, for they had fired on his boats, & shewd the dead men there on his Deck, & the wounded man, as soon as the Flag returned Canonading was renewd

This is the best Accot I can colect, but its hard to come at the truth therefore must conjecture, as circumstances appear – Majr Latimere ask's me when to call back his Troops, & advised him to do it to morrow, if the Ships dont appear off Stonington in the morning, and its not probable they will, and don't expect they'l come into this port, however shall keep a good look out. Yr [&c.]

G Saltonstall

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New London Augt 31 1775 8 Clock P M

This moment I am favoured with your leter of this day by Mr George Griscomb, and acknowledge your Honors favor relative the powder; at 6 Clock this evening wrote your Honor every thing I could learn touching the Stonington Attack, which you have by Mr [David] Bushnell by whom I intend to send this if he is not gone . . .

Colo [Jabez] Huntington's express for Inteligence came in at noon & gave him the substance of what you find in mine of 6 Clock

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO COLONEL JABEZ HUNTINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sr

New London Augt 31 1775

your favour of yesterday with the two barriels powder Came to hand two Clock this Morning & is in my Store and Shall be Improved in the best Manner for the Publick – your favour of this day is before me the Ships have not fired as I Can learn since about 5 Clock Last Evening the best accounts I Can get of the beginning of the Hostilities is that two Packets employd by Rhod island to Land 200 Men at Block Island from Stonington after much Hazard from the men of Warr & Transports round Block Island landed their Men their & pushed back for Stonington being pursued by Two Tenders into Harbour then the Tenders took 2 Vessels at Anchor & went to the wharfe to take more Vessels & after prohibition from so doing & threats no doubt on both sides they persisted in their Robary and then it appears probable to me the Americans fird and killed some Menowars Crew – The Tenders then fired a few Shott & put out met Capt [James] Wallace in the *Rose* off Watchhill, they returnd with him into Stn Harbr & fired upon the Houses a Flag was Sent on bord Wallace abt noon to know why they fired on them he Shewd the flag four dead men of his Ships Crew & one his hand Shot off & Said he was on the defensive and would blow the Town down & as soon as the flag returned he renewed the cannonading with the utmost Vigor we had one man mortaly wounded in the neck & one other slightly wounded the Country are gone from the Northward to their assistance Majr [Jonathan] Latimers detachmt of 200 arraved their early in the Evening – at 11 Clock last night Thos Mumford Esqr left the Ships in Stn Harbour am told whilst he was their writing a Letter a Cannon Ball passd through the room he Sat in I have not seen him The Transports its aprehendd will not be able to take B. Island Stock Expect they will Try Montauk & its Neighbroad Genl [David] Woster is their and the Committe of Suffolk who ware notified by Express from hence last fryday of the Advice Govr [Jonathan] Trumble commund to us from Genl Washington – therefore they will no doubt be ready to receive them the Stock is Sd to be of [f] Gardiners & Plumb Island suppose it is so Our Stock of Powder & Ball is all deliverd out how it was at Groton dont know but as the messenger

from Stonington to us Yesterday was after powder presume Groton could not Supply it.

Yr [&c.]

G. Saltonstall

1. Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-LONDON, AUGUST 31 [1775]”<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday morning at six o'clock, we were alarmed by a severe firing to the eastward of this harbour, and in a little time an express arrived from Stonington (a small town about twelve miles distant) informing, that a tender had pursued two small sloops into that harbour, who ran on shore, and the people landed before the tender was in gun shot; and as soon as she got in, they fired a full broadside into the town, tacked, and went out; and in a little time returned with two more tenders and his Majesty's ship the *Rose*: The ship came to anchor and brought her side to bear against the town, and began to fire; the tenders also, who kept under sail, and both ship and sloops continued (without intermission) firing the whole day, and by express (which has since arrived) they have killed two of our men. There is now numbers of our people collected and are there; and when the tender came within musket shot we fired on them: One tender got on the ground, and in carrying out a hawser our people imagined they killed several in the boat. There has been a flag sent off on board the *Rose* to know the reason of this extra work. The Captain says our people fired on his tender first, and that he will blow the town down. This morning is a cessation of firing – hope the matter is settled.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, September 4, 1775.

ACCOUNT OF ATTACK ON NEW LONDON BY H.M.S. *Rose*<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday morning [August 30] a tender chased two small sloops into Stonington harbor, who had a number of people on board bound to Block-Island. they had but just time to get on shore before the tender came in, and after making a tack came close along side of Captain Denison's Wharf, and discharged a full broad side into the stores and houses and sailing out again, in a little time returned with the *Rose* man of war and another tender, And soon as the *Rose* could get her broadside to bare on the town she began a very heavy fire, also the tenders, who were under sail, and continued firing the whole day, with very little intermission; during the time a flag was sent off from the shore, desiring Capt. Wallace, commander of the *Rose*, to let them know what he meant by firing on the town? His answer was, that he did it in his own defence. We have one man mortally wounded, and the houses, stores, &c. very much shattered. Yesterday morning [August 31] they sailed out and anchored at the north-side of the west-end of Fisher's Island, where they remain at this publication. There were five or six people killed on board the tenders, by the inhabitants who assembled and were under arms the whole day. They have carried off a schooner loaded with

molasses, belonging to Patuxet, in Providence, from the West-Indies, and the two small sloops that landed the people.

1. *New York Gazette*, Sept. 11, 1775. Account was from New London and dated Sept. 1, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIAN  
AFFAIRS IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga August 31st 1775

Captain [Remember] Baker of the unenlisted Green Mountain Boys, having been heretofore employed by me on Scout to Canada with the only View to gain Intelligence, and with express Orders not to molest the Canadians or Indians, lately went into that Country without my Leave with a Party of five Men, and discovering a Boat manned by an equal Number of Indians (by authentic Intelligence sent me from Canada, I learn of the Cagnawaga Tribe) attempted to fire on them, but his Gun missing and, he putting his Head from behind the Tree where he stood, in Order to hammer his Flint, received a Shot in his Forehead, and instantly expired – Upon which his Party returned the Fire and unfortunately killed two of the Indians. This Event my Canadian Correspondent informs me has induced some of the Indians of that Tribe to join the regular Forces at St Johns. What the Consequence of Baker's Imprudence may be, it is hard to foresee. It behoves however to attempt to eradicate from the Minds of the Indians any evil Impressions they may have imbibed from this mortifying Circumstance. But what Measures to take to gain so desirable an End, I am utterly at a Loss to determine. Perhaps a few Indians of the six Nations might be willing to join the Army under my Command in a peaceable Message to those of Canada. And as this Account will most certainly reach the six Nations, I believe it may be most prudent to prepare them for it in such a Manner as you who can be assisted with the best Advice at Albany shall determine. You will be pleased to forward a Copy of this Letter by Express to Congress, to whom I would have wrote, was not my Time so wholly engrossed in the necessary Preparation for moving the Remainder of the Army which I have ordered to embark this Afternoon & tomorrow Morning and with which I propose to take Possession of the Isle au Noix, till more Artillery can be sent me, I having sent down only four twelve Pounders, the others not being in Readiness.

I am Gent. [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler.

Please to communicate no more of this Letter than is absolutely necessary to any Body.

To Oliver Wolcott, Turbot Francis & Volcklet P. Downs Esqrs Commissioners  
for Indian Affairs.<sup>2</sup>

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

2. Congress authorized three departments to deal with the Indians on July 12, 1775, and the gentlemen listed above, plus General Schuyler and Joseph Hawley, were named commissioners for the Northern Department the following day. The Journal of Congress spells Downs's Christian name, "Volkert." See Sept 6, 1775, vol. II, for conveyance of a copy of the above to Congress.

*New York Journal*, Thursday, August 31, 1775

New York, August 31.

We hear from Providence, that on Tuesday the 22d instant his Majesty's ships the *Rose*, *Swan* and *Glasgow*, attempted to go to Providence, and got within 8 miles of the town, when two of them ran ashore and the other came to an anchor. Soon after arrived a brig and a sloop inward bound from the West-Indies, these were immediately chased by the men of war's barges and 3 cutters, till they ran ashore at Warwick, where they were boarded by the man of war's men in sight of a great number of people who had assembled on the shore. There were in the harbour 2 armed schooners fitted out by the town of Providence for the protection of their trade, and were going to convoy a small fleet down the river. A smart engagement then began and lasted 3 hours and an half, during which, an incessant fire was kept up between the 2 schooners and the brig and sloop, which the people on board often attempted to get off, but as often were driven from the windlasses. But at last they cut the brig's cable and carried her off, with the Captain on board, who refused to quit her; the sloop we retook and brought into the harbour, tho' fired upon by the man of war as we passed them. We had not a man killed or wounded, which is surprising. Upwards of 30 cannon ball were picked up on the shore. It is supposed many of the enemy are killed. The men of war are at present in Bristol harbour, where they have begun to rob and plunder the plantation of Mr. William Wessels.

We hear from Philadelphia, that last Week a Shallop laden with Coffee, taken from another Vessel that has escaped, also a Schooner from St. Eustatia, belonging to Mr. Samuel Mifflin, were taken by the *Nautilus* Man of War and carried quite off, being under no apprehension of an Attack.<sup>1</sup>

1. The sloop *Polly* and schooner *Tryal*. See Journal of the *Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

ABRAHAM LOTT, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR NEW YORK, TO THE NEW YORK  
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen—

[New York] August 31st, 1775.

This morning I have seen a printed resolution of the Honourable Board, dated the 29th instant, by which I am permitted in future (agreeably to former directions) to supply His Majesty's ships on this station "with all necessaries, as well fresh as salt, and that such supplies be sent by me to the Governor's island, to be taken from thence on board of the said ships."

In pursuance of which, I propose to write a letter to Capt. [George] Vandeput, informing him of the leave given by the Honourable Board. But as the beer and water for the King's ships have been supplied from Brookland ferry and not from this city; as these articles are put on board of the ships in large heavy butts, which require a number of hands to hoist them in and out of the boats, and can not be obtained any where else with the same ease and convenience; and as the inhabitants at the ferry have no objection to the man of war's boat coming there to take off those articles, I humbly pray the honourable Congress will be pleased (prior to my writing Capt. Vandeput) to signify their opinion whether the man of war's

boats permitted to go to the ferry for beer and water, and whether I may assure him they will not be molested and hurt in going on that business.

I hope I may be permitted to add, that if this liberty is not granted, it will be a difficult matter for the ships to water, as they cannot get it on the Governor's island; nor do I conceive how it will be in my power to supply them with beer in any other mode.

I have the honour, with all due deference to your superior judgments, to be, gentlemen [&c.]

Abrm Lott

P. S. Enclosed I send an account of what I have supplied and am to supply His Majesty's Ship *Asia* with.

[Enclosure]

New York, August 31, 1775

Pursuant to the order of the honourable the Provincial Congress for the Colony of New York of the 27th May, 1775, I have supplied His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, between the 27th of July and 2d of August, with the following provisions for her own use, viz: Bread, 20,618 pounds; flour, 28 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lb.; butter, 1,195 pounds; beer, have not got the brewer's account, and thus cannot ascertain the quantity. I have lately received another order for – bread, 10,000 pounds; butter, 10 firkins; peas, 84 bushels; oatmeal, 84 bushels; which propose to supply in a few days.

Abraham Lott

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 28.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 ho. A.M., August 31, 1775

Messrs. Leonard Lispenard, Isaac Roosevelt, and Jacobus VanZandt brought into Congress a contract by them made on behalf of this Congress with Joseph Hallett, Jr., for the importing of fifteen tons of gunpowder and fourteen hundred stand of arms, and for any quantity of saltpetre which he may import in lieu of the said gunpowder.

The said contract was read and approved of, and ordered to be filed.

The examination of Jacobus Stoutenburgh Jr. a messenger from Dutchess county, with relation to Peter Dop and his sloop, was taken and filed.

*Ordered*, That Colonel [John] Lasher be directed to furnish a sufficient detachment from his battalion to take and seize the sloop, and people on board, which is charged with having supplied necessaries for the use of the army and navy, and now lying at anchor near the *Asia* ship of war.

*Ordered further*, That Col. Lasher use his discretion with respect to the mode, time, and place of seizing the said sloop; and that the said sloop, when seized, be taken to some secure place up the river, and stripped of her sails, rudder, &c., and that such persons as shall be found on board, be immediately brought to this Congress by land.

Die Jovis, 4. ho. P.M. August 31, 1775

Linus King, Thomas Marston and Hamilton Young filed affidavits with respect to the brig *Polly*, bound to the West Indies, and also a list of her cargo, as is directed. also an affidavit of Bernard McDavit, the master of said brig *Polly*, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the master.

*Ordered*, That the brig *Polly*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Archibald Mercer, filed a like affidavit, as owner of the sloop *Greyhound*, bound to Curracoa, with a list of her cargo; also the affidavit of William Montanye, master of said sloop *Greyhound*, as directed and required by this Congress.

*Ordered*, That the said sloop *Greyhound* with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

John Murray filed such affidavit, as owner of the ship *Peggy*, bound to Falmouth, and laden with wheat, as is required to be taken by an owner.

Die Jovis 4 ho. P M, Aug. 31, 1775

A letter from Abraham Lott, Esq. agent-victualler for His Majesty's ships in this port, was read and filed; also an account of provisions supplied the ship *Asia* with, between the 27th of July and the 2d of August; also, an account of provisions required for the use of said ship. . . .

*Ordered*, That Abraham Lott, Esq. agent for victualling His Majesty's ships, be requested to attend this Congress to -morrow morning, and also to furnish this Congress with an estimate of the quantity of provisions the Ship *Asia* will require per week, and the number of men on board.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 129.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Thursday, August 31st [1775]

*Resolved*, That Capt. James Montgomery be appointed to the Command of one of the Armed Boats.

*Resolved*, That the Members of this board who go down to Gloucester on Fryday or Saturday next be a Committee to inform Mr. Joseph Hugg that this Board will supply him with a Boat, and a Cannon for the same, and Commission him as Commander of her, provided the Province of New Jersey will Man, pay and victual said Boat.

*Resolved*, That each of the Armed Boats be provided with two Brass Patearoes, and that Capt. [Robert] White procure the same.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 328.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1775

Philadelphia, August 31.

The *Nautilus* man of war, we hear, is sailed for Boston.<sup>1</sup>

1. The *Nautilus* cleared the Capes Aug. 24, 1775, bound for Boston with her two prizes; *Journal of the Nautilus*.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS McCABE, DUBLIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 31 Augt [1775]

p Capt Weeks <sup>2</sup>

Our publick papers will give us [*sic* you] a perticuler acct of our troubles here, however you need not [be] Affraid of us Giveing up our libertyes, when all the English troops that is yet Come out, have not Deard to Penetrate one foot into the Country beyond the reach of the Men of Warrs Guns, & tho the[y] drove the Countrey people from Bunkers hill, the English troops were so well Swetted, by Raw Undisciplend men, that the[y] never persued them twenty Steps from the field of battle, and to this day the[y] never gaind one foot more Ground than the[y] did that Day of Engagement, beside they are in want of provisions, whilst the Countrey has an Army of 20,000 Men well Supplied with all Necessarys, from which Circumstances, you Can your Self Judge whether we will tamely give up or not, —

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Snow *Potomac*, Edward Weeks, master.BILL OF LADING FOR GOODS SHIPPED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Eleanor* <sup>1</sup>

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order, and well Conditioned by *Buchanan & Cowan* in and upon the good Ship called the *Eleanor* whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, *George Buchanan* and now Riding at Anchor in the *River Patapsco*. and by God's Grace, bound for *London* to say, *One hundred and twenty two hhds of Maryland Leaf Tobacc* being mark'd and number'd as in *Manifest*, and are to be delivered in the like good Order, and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *London* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *Messrs Wallace Davidson & Johnson* or to *their* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods *Seven pounds Sterling P Ton and two thirds port Charges* with Primage and Average accustom'd. In witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to *two* Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which *two* Bills being accomplish'd the other *one* to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port in safety. Amen. Dated in *Baltimore Town Augt 31, 1775*.

Geo: Buchanan

Sold by J. Mount and T. Page, on Tower-Hill.

1. MdHS. A printed form with handwriting shown in italics.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>*Private*No Carolina Cruizer Sloop of War in Cape Fear River  
Augst 31st 1775.

My Lord I do myself the honour to introduce to Your Lordship, the bearer hereof, Mr Robt Hogg, a Merchant of first consideration in this Colony, where he has Resided many years, and who is now compelled by popular clamour, and Resentment, to abandon his important concerns here, because he will not

renounce his principles, which he has maintained with a manly firmness, and Steadiness, which do equal honor to his heart and understanding.

As I know no Gentleman better qualified than Mr Hogg both by his intelligence and candour to Represent the state of this Colony, I think it a point of duty to introduce him to Your Lordship, and to give you opportunity of communicating with him.

I have the honor to be &ca

Jo. Martin

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

**1 Sept.**

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston, September. 1. 1775.

Notwithstanding the Rebels Attack upon the King's Troops on the 19th of April and their subsequent behaviour would I think have fully justified my exerting the whole force of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command against the New England Provinces several Months ago; Yet I have hitherto forebore, hoping this unhappy People would either have returned to their Duty, or that before this time the final determination of Great Britain Concerning them would have been known: But after the repeated Insults and Losses His Majesty's Squadron has sustained by part of it being burnt and taken; the King's People killed and made Prisoners; Light Houses destroyed; Commerce interrupted, And the Preparations for War daily making in the different Towns, I can no longer delay using the Means in my power to prevent the progress of such Rebellious and Pyratrical Transactions.

With your Excellency's approbation and Assistance, I purpose to lay Waste such Sea Port Towns in the New England Governments as are not likely to be useful to His Majesty's Stores and to destroy all the Vessels within the Harbours. To this End I must beg your Excellency to assist me with such Men, Vessels, Artillery Forces &ca as His Majesty's Squadron is not provided with, and are really requisite for the intended Service.

A Party of Soldiers under the Command of a steady, experienced Officer, would almost ensure success to the Expedition and I submit to your Excellency's better Judgment how many will answer the purpose.

A small detachment from the Artillery will also be necessary under the Command of a Subaltern whom I should be glad to name.

It may be proper to mention that the *Symmetry* and *Spitfire* require some small fitting to receive Howitzers and Mortar, Carriages for the Howitzers are also wanting. And as I have no person in the fleet who can do that sort of Work, I must beg the Artillery and Transport Carpenters may assist those of the Squadron under the direction of Mr Austin the Artillery Master Carpenter. But not to trouble your Excellency with too many applications on this business, I enclose a particular Account of every thing that I believe we shall have occasion to ask for; and, satisfied of your readiness to Co-operate with

and assist me on all occasions for this Majestys Service, It will give Me great pleasure If your Excellency approving my proposal, is pleased to order the required Supplies to be furnished with as much dispatch as possible I have the honor to be with great regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL; a copy in Graves's Conduct, 192, 193, MassHS Transcript.

#### NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 1775 Sept 1

The Admiral was impatient to revenge the Insults shown his Cruizers, and to scourge the Inhabitants of these Sea Port Towns where they had suffered and also of those places from whence the Privateers, which then and afterwards did so much mischief to our Transports and Tenders, were continually popping out as soon as a Merchant Ship appeared off: Therefore if the Expedition now proposed to the General by letter and to which he at Length gave way, could have earlier taken effect, with Troops sufficient, much Loss to his Majesty would have been prevented, and very possibly the Coast of the Massachusetts Bay kept in as great Awe, that they would scarcely have suffered any Privateers to have taken shelter amongst them.

It was by the Admirals allowing Captain [James] Wallace to keep on board the *Rose* a party of 37 Marines above his Complement, besides many supernumerary Seamen in his own and the other Ships and Vessels with him, that he was enabled to arm Vessels suited to the Navigation of the small Rivers and Creeks, and whenever occasion required to land a hundred men and upwards and ravage the coast; that he kept his Post at Rhode Island in spite of the Enemy, and not only prevented the Privateers of force actually fitted out at Providence from getting to Sea, but compelled the Congress of Cambridge <sup>2</sup> to consent to his little Squadron being supplied with fresh Provisions, in order to save the Towns and People on the Sea Coast from Destruction; and no Doubt hindered Numbers of small Privateers from being equipped in that Colony. Could the other Ships of the Squadron have been well supplied with Musquetry, what might not have been done? But the Admiralty's Orders to land the Marines, the very low Complements to, and the Condition of the few Ships with the Admiral, effectually tied up his hands from either thoroughly protecting our own Trade, or harrassing the Enemy by Descents.

The *Halifax* new armed Schooner arrived from Halifax with a Convoy of Transports, and brought the Admiral Letters from Governor [Francis] Legge, Captain [Edward] Medows of the *Tartar*, and Captain [William] Dudingston of the *Senegal*. It seems the Province was much alarmed with Reports of Pyrates in the Bay of Fundy, and the Governor by the advice of his Council applied to Capt. Medows to sail with all the Kings Ships and Vessels then in the Harbour to the Bay of Fundy, but Captain Medows acquainted the Governor that as all the Province Arms were put on board Vessels in Halifax Harbour under his Protection, he thought the most essential service the *Tartar* could do would be to remain there; and that he would send the *Senegal* to the Bay of Fundy, which, with the two armed Schooners at that time there, he was certain would be sufficient at present

for the protection of our Trade, and the Western parts of the Province, the Rebels not being yet in a Condition to attempt any thing considerable; And he was sure the Admiral would provide for the Security of the whole Province. . . . Captain Dudingstone sent the Schooner on with them<sup>3</sup> to Boston, and went himself into the Bay to collect all the Vessels bound with Cattle and Forage to Boston. And the Admiral himself wrote shortly afterwards to Govr Legge on the subject of his letter.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 194-196, MassHS Transcript.
2. The Rhode Island Assembly, not the Massachusetts Congress, ordered the provisioning of the British ships of war.
3. Graves is referring to the transports from Halifax.

JONATHAN JENKINS TO DR. NATHANIEL FREEMAN<sup>1</sup>

Sr.

Nantucket 1 Sept 1775

I use the freedom from the former acquaintance I had with your Person, to request the favr of a correspondance by Letters, if the present difficulties have not taken up yr attention so far as to disable you to comply as being upon an Island have Not an Oppy of geting the right of any Story, & you being placed in such a Station as to be knowing to all that transpires; so various are the accots. we have here, that there is no knowing which is right, we have heard that it past a Resolve, that no provision should be brought to this Island & that all communication was to be stopt. I understand that they censor us as Tory upon the Main, & charge us with supplying *Tom Gage* with Provisions, it is all fals, there has never been any kind of Provision whatsoever gone from here to Boston, except three Barrels of Flour which Wm Rotch sent as a present to three Widow; which he sent the time that Capt Richd Coffin went down to bring Geyer & Burgess's Ship that was carried there by a King Ship. I must acknowledge that our leading Men, have been very backward in not vindicating the Charrecter of the Island, but let so many false storys pass about & not take notice of it As to the inhabitance here being Tory, they are not, but as well wishers to the Cause contending, as any sett of People whersoever, but the Situation of this Island is Such as will not admit of our doing anything except we pack up our all & abandon it, we are no way capable of defending ourselves, from even an Arm Schooner with twenty Soldiers on board, did we not make it evident to Capt [Joshua] Davis when he came on here for Whale boat with his Hundred Men? did we not supply them with all the Powder, ball & Guns that we had, we did & that am knowing too, Several Men whose principles were such as would not admit of there Supplying any person with instruments of War, never objected or shew any dislike when thier Clarks or any other took out of thier Stores powder & Lead to Supply the Soldiers with, What has there been requested of us, that we have not comply'd too? you have never ask'd Men of us, when ever men are Necessary from this Island, I doubt not but we shall be able to turn out a Hundred or More of as good Marksmen as any of the Rifle Men & men who wants not for courrage. It very much surprisd me to hear that that half Starv'd [torn] the best times *Baree River* should resolve at their Town Meeting Not to Supply us with any of the Necessarys of Life, they never had one tenth part of provision enough to subsist on among themselves,

but carried from here the Chief of their support, without us they would all Starve in a heap, since their Resolves there people has been obligd to bring over here all the Cash they could muster to purchase beef Pork flour &c. which they us'd to get by bringing over Homspun Cloath, Stocking, thread &c those that are not able to purchase a barrell of any kind have been about to the Private Houses & beg'd them to Share five or six pound Pork & beef & seven pound flour, Molls Sugar &c in the same manner & acknowledge that if the communication is not soon free again, that many of their poor people will suffer, many whose sole dependance was in bringing over fruit & roots to purchase beef with is now cut of[f] by the rash & inconsiderate resolve what I have freely scrawld upon this Sheet hope you'l not expose to the speculation of any for want of time & my paper falling Short conclude in Subscribing myself your Friend &[c.]  
[Jon<sup>a</sup> Jenkins]

Doctr Nath Freeman at Sandwich

1. NHA.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] Sept. 1 [1775]

By two men from stonington we learn, that Cap [James] Wallace chased a Vessel in there – that the Cutters pursueing there Boats in there A Man standing on land called to the Boats & directed them. Upon which the Cutters told them they would fire on the To[wn] if the p[eo]ple directed the Boats. At length the Cutters fired two rounds on the Boats & then come up and fired with Swivels & Small Arms on the Town. The p[eo]ple then Sent out a Flag of Truce & Wallace fired on them, they returned. Then Wallace drew up & fired away on the Houses. The p[eo]ple returned the fire on the Cutters, who were getting away Some Vessels, upon this they had a parly & ceased fring. But the Man o' War's men proceeding to get out & carrying off 4 Vessels from the Wharfs, the p[eo]ple told them they would defend them. Then the fire on both Sides was returned. And Wallace fired on the Houses from IX o'clock morn'g 'till one & ceased for Dinner. After which he began again & fired till near night. Greatly damaged the Houses But a Mercifull Providence prevented the loss of any lives on our Side & only one Wounded. Wallace then drew off & anchored under Fisher's Isl'd <sup>2</sup>

1. Stiles, III, 76, LC.

2. This is a very garbled hearsay account of the bombardment of Stonington.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*” <sup>1</sup>

Sept. 1775

Clay Head S S E 5 or 6 Miles

Friday 1

P M Stop't a Sloop with Horses from New London,<sup>2</sup> at 4 weigh'd and came to sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. The *Black Joak*, John Mackibbin, master, the property of Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. She was bound to Jamaica with horses, onions, and oats, and was condemned and sold in Boston in mid-September. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript. See also Shaw to Mackibbin, July 12, 1775.

JOHN POTTER TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

Sir, —

S. Kingstown, Sept. 1st, 1775

Yours of yesterday's date came safe to hand per Ezekiel Burr In answer. I have no intelligence of more than one man-of-war and four tenders, being near and between here and Block Island. By the best information there is about two hundred of our people got on Block Island. Agreeable to your request, I shall, without any loss of time, forward your orders and advice to the inhabitants of Block Island. Am in great hopes the express for Block Island will arrive there this evening and am ready and willing to do everything else in my power for our Common safety, and am Sir &c.

John Potter

P.S. Must refer you to Mr. Burr for particulars.

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 121, 122.

JOSEPH STANTON, JR. TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Charlestown, 1st Sept. 1775

I have been obliged to take the Town's Stocks of powder and ball from Westerly, Charlestown and Hopkintown, to equip the troops for the Block Island expedition, and to press 50 fire-arms. Of consequence, we are left in a most defenceless and wretched situation. These are, therefore, to beg your Honor would immediately order that the above towns may be supplied, as numbers of the inhabitants are much displeas'd with me for taking their powder, ball and arms, at a time when our most inveterate enemies are on every side insulting of us. Capt. [James] Wallace, with three tenders, gave chase in pursuit of two of our transports, with 75 men, who were on their passage to Block Island. The night coming on when they were in the middle of the Sound, and about a league distance from the *Rose* and tender, gave our troops an opportunity to make their escape. The transports landed their men, and returned to the harbour the same night. In the morning the ship *Rose* and her tenders came into the above harbour, [and] began a heavy fire on the town, which continued most of the day. The women and children abandoned the town, in the midst of a severe rain storm. It is surprising that we had only one man wounded. The tenders stretched off and on within 60 yards of the wharves, and received the fire of our musketry, from behind the wharves, stores and rocks. We have reason to believe we killed number of the enemy. 300 of Col. [Charles] Webb's regiment, who were stationed at New London, arrived in the evening with great numbers of the inhabitants, who behaved with great intrepidity, and even the women were rather mad than surpris'd. The houses received some damage from the *Rose*, but none from the tenders.<sup>2</sup> Col. Rhodes is on the Island with 180 troops. The remainder will embark in small boats, as we think it most safe, immediately. We have not a sufficient supply of powder for the Island expedition. Should be glad of a few casks. Yours &c.

Jos. Stanton, Jun.

P.S. Three vessels of war are now cruising round the Island

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 122, 123.

2. Stanton was describing the attack on Stonington, Aug. 30, 1775.

*Connecticut Gazette*, NEW LONDON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1775

New-London, September 1.

Wednesday Morning [August 30] a Tender chased two small sloops into Stonington harbour, who had a number of People on Board, bound to Block Island, and they had but just Time to get on shore, before the Tender came in, and after making a Tack they came close along side of Capt. Dennison's Wharf and discharged a full broadside into the stores, houses, &c. and sailed out again, and in a little Time returned with the *Rose* Man of War and another Tender, and as soon as the *Rose* could get her broadside to bear on the Town, she began a very heavy fire, also the Tenders who were under sail; during the Time a flag was sent off from the shore, desiring Captain [James] Wallace, commander of the *Rose*, to let them know what he meant by firing on the Town? – His answer was that he did it in his own defence. We have one Man mortally wounded, and the houses, stores, &c. very much shattered. Yesterday Morning they sailed out and anchored at the north side of the west end of Fisher's Island, where they remain at this Publication. There were five or Six People killed on board the Tenders by the inhabitants, who assembled and were under arms the whole day. They have carried off a schooner loaded with Molasses belonging to Patuxet in Providence, from the West Indies, and the two small sloops that landed the People.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. September 1st 1775.

An estimate or account from Abraham Lott, Esq. agent-victualler for His Majesty's ships in this port, was read; and Abraham Lott, Esq. being so indisposed as to be confined to his house, by one of the Secretaries, requested a conference with some member or members of this Congress.

Ordered, That Mr. Clarkson, Mr. Walton and Mr. Sears, be a committee to confer with Abraham Lott, Esq. and also to report to this Congress on the Letter of Abraham Lott, Esq. requesting to permit the ship *Asia's* boats to get beer and water at Brooklyn; and also on the quantities of provisions proper to be supplied to the said ship.

The committee appointed to confer with Abraham Lott, Esq. agent for victualling His majesty's ships, reported that they had conferred with him, and are of the opinion that the best method of supplying the said ship with beer and water, is to let her be supplied from Brooklyn ferry, with beer and water as usual; and that she be supplied with provisions weekly, agreeable to the order of this Congress.

*Resolved*, therefore, That the said ship have leave to be supplied with beer and water from Brooklyn ferry as usual; and that they be supplied with provisions weekly, agreeable to the former resolution of this House.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 129.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday, September 1st, 1775

Resolved, That Mr. Hugh Montgomery be appointed Lieutenant of the Armed Boat to be Commanded by Capt. John Harrison.

Whereas, there are good reasons to suppose the Armed Boats may very soon be called into action, it is necessary to Man the same with not less than thirty nor more than fifty Men to each Boat, Officers included, who are to be shipped for two months certain, and from that time until discharged by orders from Assembly or this Board :

Resolved, That the following be the monthly pay of the officers and Men employed in the Provincial Armed Boats:

The Commodore,	30 Dollars per month.
Every Captain of a Boat,	20 ditto per do.
Every Lieutenant,	12 ditto per do. <sup>2</sup>
Surgeon of the Fleet,	20 ditto per do.
Surgeon's Mate,	12 ditto per do.
Every Steward of a Boat,	10 ditto per do.
Every Captain's Clerk,	8 ditto per do.
Every Mate and Gunner,	10 ditto per do.
Every Carpenter,	10 ditto per do.
Every Boatswain,	8 ditto per do.
Every Cook,	6 ditto per do.
Every Drummer,	6 ditto per do.
Every Private,	6 ditto per do.
Every Boy,	4 ditto per do.

Resolved, That every Man, Officers and Privates, employed in the Armed Boats, shall have the following weekly allowance of Provisions and Rum, or Malt Beer :

Seven pounds of Bread per Week, or six pounds of Flour.

Ten pounds of Beef, Mutton, or Pork.

The value of Six pence per Week, in Roots and Vegetables.

Salt and Vinegar.

Three pints and a half of Rum, or Beer in proportion.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 329.

2. Increased to 14 dollars per month, by resolve Sept. 14, 1775, *ibid.*, 334.

**2 Sept.**

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON <sup>1</sup>

1st. You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America,<sup>2</sup> are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army and proceed on Board the Schooner *Hannah*, at Beverly, lately fitted out & equip'd with Arms, Ammunition and Provisions at the Continental Expence.

2nd. You are to proceed as Commander of Sd Schooner, immediately on a Cruize against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere, bound inward and outward to or from Boston, in the Service of the ministerial Army, and to take and seize all such Vessels, laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition, or Provisions for or from sd Army, or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service.

3rd. If you should be so successful as to take any of such Vessels, you are immediately to send them to to the nearest and safest Port to this Camp, under a careful Prize-Master, directing him to notify me by Express immediately of such Capture, with all Particulars and there to wait my farther Direction.

4th. You are to be very particular and diligent in your Search after all Letters and other Papers tending to discover the designs of the Enemy, or of any other Kind, and to forward all such to me as soon as possible.

5th. Whatever Prisoners you may take you are to treat with Kindness and Humanity, as far as is consistent with your own Safety. their private Stock of Money, and Apparell to be given them after being duly search'd, and when they arrive at any Port, you are to apply to the Committee, or to any Officer of the Continental Army stationed at such Port for a Guard to bring them up to Head Quarters.

6th. For your own Encouragement and that of the other Officers and Men, to Activity, and Courage in this Service, over and above your Pay in the Continental Army, you shall be entitled to one third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken, and sent into Port, (military and naval Stores only excepted, which with Vessels and Apparell are reserved for the publick Service) which 1st third Part is to be divided among the Officers and Men in the following Proportions. Captain 6 Shares, 1st Lieutt. 5 do, 2nd Lieutt. 4 do, Ship's Master 3 do, Steward 2 do, Mate 1½ do, Gunner 1½ do, Boatswain 1½ do, Gunners Mate and Serjt. 1½ do, Privates 1 Share each.

7th. You are particularly charged to avoid any Engagement with any armed Vessel of the Enemy, though you may be equal in Strength, or may have some small Advantage; the Design of this Enterprize, being to intercept the Supplies of the Enemy, which will be defeated by your running into unnecessary Engagements.

8th. As there may be other Vessels employed in the same Service with yourselves, you are to fix upon proper Signals, and your Stations being settled so as to take the greatest Range, avoid cruizing on the same Ground. If you should happen to take Prizes in Sight of each other; the Rules which take Place among Private Ships of War, are to be observed in the Distribution of the Prize-Money.

9th. In Case of retaking the Vessel of any Friend to the American Cause, I will recommend it to such Person to make a suitable Compensation to those who have done such a Service; but such Vessels are not to be deemed as coming within the Directions respecting other Vessels.

10th. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your Ammunition, by no Means to waste any of it in Salutes, or for any Purpose, but what is absolutely necessary.

## Go Washington

([Endorsed] Sept. 1775 to Captn Nicholson Broughton<sup>3</sup> Instructions [Endorsed by Captain Richard Varick] Captn B. sailed the 5th Sept. N.B. his Letter of 7th)

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 467-469, except the signature and the conclusion in parentheses which is taken from the Varick Transcripts and Washington Papers LC, respectively.
2. Broughton was commissioned a captain in Col. John Glover's Marblehead Regiment on May 19, 1775.
3. "I hereby Certify that within named Nicholas [*sic*] Broughton, was a Captain in the 21 Regt which I had the Honor to Command, in the Campaign of 1775; in the course of which being a Seaman was appointed to the Command of the first Armd Vessell fitted out in the Service of the United States." Endorsement by Col. John Glover upon a memorial presented to the Continental Congress in July 1781, by Broughton. Papers CC, 41, I, 349, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER<sup>1</sup>

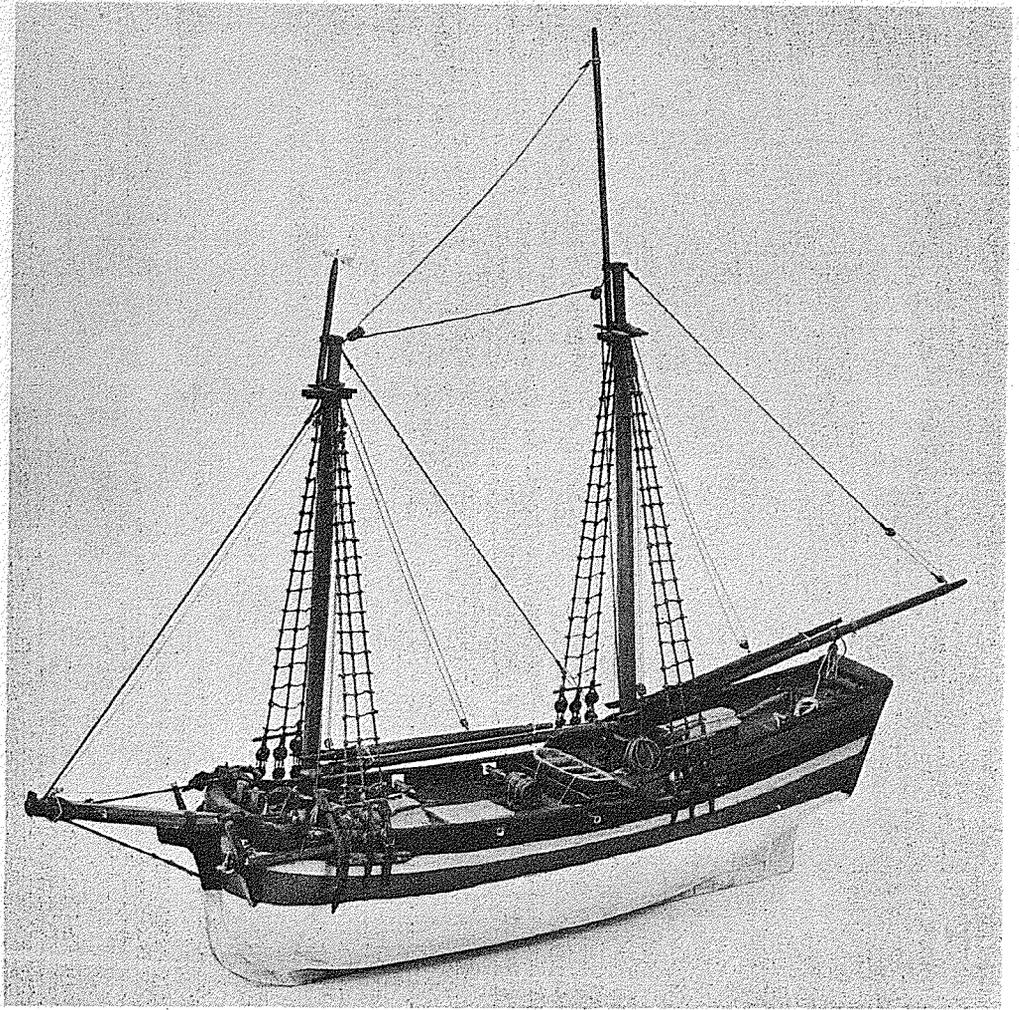
Sir

Camp at Cambridge, September 2, 1775.

I have just received your Favour of the 29th Ult. by express. I am very sensible that the Situation of the Inhabitants of Long-Island, as well as of all those on the Coast, exposes them greatly to the Ravages of the Enemy, and it is to be wished general Protection could be extended to them, consistent with the Prosecution of those great Plans, which have been adopted for the common Safety. This was early foreseen and the Danger provided for by a Resolution of Congress, That each Province should depend on it's own internal Strength against these Incursions, the Prejudice arising from them, even if successful, not being equal to that of separating the Army into a Number of small Detachments, who would be harrassed in fruitless Marches and Counter-Marches, after an Enemy, whose Conveyance by Shipping is so advantageous that they might keep the whole Coast in constant Alarm, without our being able perhaps at any Time, to give them vigorous Opposition. Upon this Principle I have invariably rejected every Application made me here, to keep any Detachments on the Coast for these Purposes. I should, therefore most probably have thought it my Duty, to have ordered the three Companies mentioned in your Letter to have joined your Army, to act in the general Service, had they not been under Command from General Schuyler to join him, but as it is I can by no Means interfere. He is engaged in a Service of the greatest Importance to the whole Continent, his Strength and appointments far short of his Expectations, and to give any counter Orders may not only defeat his whole Plan; but must make me responsible to the Public for the Failure. Instead, therefore, of their further Stay, I would have them march immediately. I fear the Delay of the ten Days may have very bad Effects, as by my last Advices from Ticonderoga, General Schuyler was to march in a few Days for Canada; and it is highly probable he may depend upon these Companies to occupy the Posts of Communication, which otherwise he must weaken his Army to do. No provincial Congress can with any Propriety, interfere in the Disposition of Troops on the continental Establishment, much less controul the Orders of any General

## Instructions to Capt Nicholas Broughton

1. You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America, are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army to proceed on board the Schooner *Mariner* at New York lately fitted out & equipped with Arms, Ammunition & Provisions at the Continental Expence
2. You are to proceed in Command of said Schooner immediately on a Cruise against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere bound inwards or outwards to or from Port of the said of the ministerial Army & to take by force all such Vessels laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition or Provisions for or from said Army or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service
3. If you should be successful as to take any of said Vessels you are immediately to send to the nearest safe Port to the Camp under careful Conduct



*Schooner Hannah.*

Officer, so that in this Instance the Congress at New York have judged properly, in declining to counteract General Schuyler's Orders. I wish I could extend my Approbation equally to the whole Line of their Conduct. Before you receive this Letter, you will most probably be able to judge how far your Continuance on Long-Island will be farther necessary. If the Fleet which last sailed was destined for those Coasts, it must be arrived. If it is not, it is certainly gone to the Eastward, and your present Station is no longer necessary. The Importance of preserving the Communication of the North River and many other Reasons induce me to wish you were returned to your former Post. The late Transactions at New York, furnish additional Reasons for your being as near that City, as is consistent with the Discipline and Convenience of your Troops. Your next, therefore, I flatter myself will inform me of your having resumed your former Station. I am, Sir, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 465-467.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NATHANIEL TRACY<sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters, September 2, 1775.

You are hereby authorized and impowered to take up for the Service of the sd. Colonies so many Vessels as shall be necessary for the transporting a Body of Troops to be detached from this Army on a secret Expedition: Freight of such Vessels to be paid in such a Manner and at such a Rate as is indorsed hereon: And in Case of Loss or Damage to such Vessels or any of them such Loss or Damage to be compensated by the Publick according to an Estimation to be made before the sd. Vessels proceed to the above Service.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 470, 471.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston the 2d September 1775

I am very sorry to be under the necessity of troubling your Excellency again upon the subject of the late transaction between Admiral [Samuel] Graves and my self, being sensible how much your attention must be engrossed by subjects of greater moment and concern to the public, but consequences that have resulted from that affair render it altogether unavoidable.

I must therefore beg leave to mention the insults that I have met with last night from Lieutenants Thomas, and Samuel Graves, Nephews to the Admiral, and to represent to your Excellency my present precarious situation. I have already taken the liberty to acquaint your Excellency that I had received two different challanges from Lieutenant Thomas Graves in consequence of what had passed between the Admiral and myself.

Having some business to transact late yesterday in the afternoon relative to the King's service in the Revenue department, at Rowes wharfe, I perceived that Mr Thomas Graves accompany'd by the Boatswain of His Majestys Ship *Preston*, with two or three other decently dressed persons, and Several Sailors had posted themselves in such a manner as to prevent my return, Mr Graves besides his Sword had a large bludgeon in his hand and some of the others had sticks -

As I approached towards them Mr Graves advanced Several paces, and desired to know why I had not met him in consequence of the messages he had sent me, that he wished to speak with me on the same business, and desired me to retire with him to the next wharfe, Where the vessel laid which he now commands, I told him that having no dispute with him, I had nothing to say to him upon the subject of the controversy between the Admiral and me – he then began to insult me with abusive language, I expostulated with him upon the impropriety of his Conduct in taking any part in that affair, intimating that I had been ill used by the Admiral, and that he was the only person I was answerable to, adding that the Admiral was fully able to do himself justice without the aid of any other person, and that I was greatly surprised to find him accompany'd by so many people, with an apparent intent as I conceived to do me an injury – After some farther altercation between us in the course of which I told him very freely my opinion of the part he had taken, – and upon the master of the Custom house schooner, remonstrating with him upon his indecent and ungentleman like conduct, he thought proper to withdraw towards his Vessel with his adherents.

Returning into town in my way to Mr Barch's in company with Mr George Leonard, I was met in Cornhill near the bottom of School street, by Lieutenant Samuel Graves, who passed me with a lowering look, and without speaking or the appearance of an intention to do me mischief, came behind me, and struck me a violent blow on the back part of my head, with a bludgeon which he had in his hand – the blow for a time stunned me and deprived me of the power of an immediate reply – I recovered soon, and found him drawing his Sword, and retreating as I advanced. Being unarmed, I reproached him with his cowardly behaviour, and desired him to throw aside his Sword, asking him the cause of his ruffian treatment, – he said it was because I had insulted the Commander in Chief of the Squadron. – The high Sherriff and others coming up and interposing, – we were parted, – but not without an apparent disapprobation and indignation at his conduct by all the standers by, both military & civil, and this morning I received a Challenge from him by a lieutenant of the *Preston*.

Your Excellency will now perceive the precarious situation and predicament in which I am involved by making a demand of my own property, for expostulating with Admiral Graves on his oppression, I received a blow for returning that blow, I have been way laid – abused – struck and challenged by his Nephews, and what is to follow, is yet to be discovered. I am not at liberty to suppose that a Gentleman of Admiral Graves high rank cou'd have any knowledge or participation in such mean and infamous attempts upon my life. If he shou'd feel himself injured from any thing that has passed between us he knows well how to do himself justice, at a proper Season, And I shou'd think that he must also feel and resent the outrage offered by others in his defence.

To your Excellency I appeal for the Justice of my cause, not doubting but you will take such measures, as may in their operation procure me ample reperation for the unmerited abuse and ill treatment I have received, and protection from any farther attacks from ruffians. I am Sir [&c.]

Ben<sup>n</sup> Hallowell

NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence, September 2d, 1775

Sir, - I am favoured with your Excellency's letter of the 31st instant, by Capt. [George] Baylor, who has purchased the warlike stores imported by Messrs. Clarke & Nightingale. The prices appear to be very high; but, considering the cost, expenses and risk, I believe they are as low as can be reasonably expected . . . The Committee appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly have given your proposal, for taking the powder from Bermuda, a full consideration, and have come to a resolution to make the attempt. Captain Abraham Whipple, the Commodore of the two armed vessels in the service of this Colony, who hath been very ill, but is now upon the recovery, hath been consulted and will undertake the enterprize as soon as his health will permit. He is deemed the most suitable person to conduct it that we have. He requests your Excellency to give him a line under your hand assuring the people of Bermuda that, in case of their assistance, you will recommend it to the Continental Congress, to permit them to fetch provisions for the use of the Island. He does not propose to make any use of it, unless he shall find it utterly impracticable to obtain the powder without their assistance. I am &c.

Nich's Cooke

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 123, 124.MATTHEW GRISWOLD TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sr

Lyme Sept 2nd 1775

The Danger of being Robd of our Stock on the Sea Coast near the Mouth of Connectt River has Induced the People of that Neighbourhood to keep a Watch for some time to prevent that Mischeif but as few People live Near the place of Danger it is found greatly Inconvenient to call People some ab the Distance of 5 or 6 miles to attend that Service, which wee have been oblidgd to do: Many at present seem to groan under the Burden. I am Desired by Sundry of the Select men & Civil authority of this Town (all indeed who are present) to Request that your Hon'r woud please to order & Direct that Some of the Souldiers at New London: might at present be Stationd at Black Point about:6:or:7:Miles from New London:& another Small Party Near Connectt River on the East side: With Submission to your Hon's better Judgement I apprehend if the Party near Connectt River shoud Consist of about 12:men: 3 or 4 to watch at a time might be suffict to give the alarm: and give timely assistance to the People to Remove themselves & Stock out of the way of Danger: Such a Small Number might be taken into the few Houses there without much Trouble: The number on Black Point I Shod think ought to be greater as the access to that place is easier deep water near the Shore The point long & narrow and So Situated as earlier to Discover the approach of any Ship towards New London in the way they woud undoubterly go: - & not so far Distant but that they might afford timely assistance & Serve New London to better purpose Than if they were actually on the spot Our People Esteem it

a Hardship to be obligd to travell watch and Do the Service The Souldirs are paid for: I dont Doubt but your Honr will do Justice in the affair: -

I am with great Esteem [&c.]

M: Gr -

1. YUL. On loan from Wolcott G. Lane.

COMMITTEE OF SUFFOLK, CONNECTICUT, IN ACCOUNT WITH WILLIAM ELLIOTT <sup>1</sup>

1775	The Committee of Suffolk to William Elliott	Dr
Sept 2	To Boating from Isle wight to Long Island	
	71 Head of Cattle to New London	} 180/ } £ 9 0 0
	6 Head of Ditto	
	is 77 Head	
	Contents Recd of Thos Mumford	William Elliott

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Saturday Eveng N York Sept 2, 1775

I have yours of the 31st ulto p [Richard] Spink, the Contents of wch I have made Publick & much alarms us, yours was the first Accot we had, of the Cruelty of the Hostil Attack of part of the British Navey on the Defenceless Town of Stoningtown - this Conduct in firing on defenceless towns is a Dishoner to Briton, I hope your People will take Warning & Remove the Women & Effects, & let the men Stand their ground, we laid our hands to the plow & dont lets look back & Settle Matters half Way . . . if we only Stand our ground & be firm we have nothing to fear & we shall be able to hand to Posterty what our Ansesters handed to us - nothing New here—

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Sabbati 4 HO. P.M. Sept. 2d, 1775

Ordered, That Mr. Sears be and he is hereby desired to consult with Col. [John] Lasher, with respect to seizing and taking the sloop (and people on board) charged with having supplied necessaries for the use of the army and navy, and now lying at anchor near the *Asia* ship of war.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 134-135.

MINUTES OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Saturday, September 2, 1775

Mr. Robert Morris is desired to pay to Capt. [George] Ord & Mr. George Thompson at the rate of fifteen Pounds per hundred for Powder they imported, and at the rate of four Pounds per hundred more, as an encouragement for the importation of Gunpowder, which encouragement is agreeable to a Resolve of the Committee for the City and Liberties.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Thomas Houston be appointed a Lieutenant on Board one of the Armed Boats.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 330.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING <sup>1</sup>

Septemr 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]  
 Saturday 2 at 8 A M Struck Yards & Topmasts at 9 carried out our small Bower to the S E. at 10 our Best Bower came home and we swung on shore. at 11 carried out the Sheet Anchor to the N E and hove her off again. In the Gale the *Liberty* Tender was cast away in Back River. The Inhabitants of Hampton robbed her of the Kings Stores & set her on fire at 5 PM the *Mercury* drove on shore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* <sup>1</sup>

Sepr 1775 Remarks On Bd His Majys Ship *Mercury* [off Norfolk]  
 Saturday 2d. Middl [part] Fresh Gales and Squaly W[eathe]r Lattr Strong gales and Squaley with Constant rain at ½ past nine [A.M.] Bitted the Sheet Cable with a Range Struck Top Gallt Masts and Loward the lower Yards Violent hard Squalls with heavy Rain at ½ past Noon the Ship brought home the best B[owe]r Anchor and Drove into 2½ fatham water, got the Messenger to the Smal B[owe]r and hove the Ship into the Stream Got the Top Gallt Masts Down on Deck and Struck the Top Masts, got the lower Yards fore and Aft and Made all as Snugg as possible Strong gales with Verry heavey Squals & Rain at 5 found the Ship Drove let go the Sheet Anchor but the Ship Not bringing up Drove on Shore on Portsmouth Point got Som of the guns over on the Starbord Side to heel the Ship into the Bank at 8 hove up the Sheet Anchor and it being high water began to heave on the Small Bower to heave the Ship off the Ground but the Violence of the wind continuing, and The Sea breaking over the Ship prevented her getting off, got Som Moor of the guns over on the Starbord Side, Hoisted the Longboat up in the Starbord Yard Takles to keep the Ship with the heel in to the Bank Stove Started and hove over board into the Sea and was unavidably Lost all the Middle Tier of water the following Provisions, Casks and Iron Hoops in Order to Lighten the Ship She being in great Danger, (Viz.) Bread Twenty Baggs Containing two Thousand one hundred pounds – Beer thirten punchions Containing Nine hundred and Thirty Galls with one hundred & Four Iron hoops – Rum Three punchions Containing two hundred and Sixten Gallons

with Twenty Four Iron Hoops – Beef one Harnass Cask being a punchion with Eight Iron Hoops and Contained one hundred and thirty one peices pork one Harnass Cask being a punchion with Eight Iron Hoops and Contained Two hundred and Three peices. Butter Eight Firkenes Containing Six hundred and Twenty pounds, – Cask Punchions with Eight Iron Hoops each Nine Tons Hogsheads with Eight Iron Hoops each Eight Tuns Barrals with Eight Iron Hoops each Twelve Tuns – Loos[e] Iron Hoops Two hundred and Seven, From Eight to twelve Do Weather at Low water had but Three feet water the Insid of the Ship,

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1775

Williamsburg, September 2.

Major [Robert] Rogers arrived at Norfolk a few days ago; he came passenger in a snow from London, belonging to Baltimore, with 58 passengers on board, in great distress for want of provisions. The Major was put on shore in Accomack, to get some necessaries, but the wind proving unfavourable, the boat could not return to the vessel. It is imagined the snow will put into Philadelphia, as the wind was fair and blew hard.

The snow *Unicorn*, Hutchinson, belonging to Mr. Martin, of Whitehaven, which brought in the rigging for the new ship *Eilbeck*, is one of the vessels taken up for Government service, and not Mr. Barraud's brig, she being bound for Glasgow, with a load of wheat.

ALEXANDER INNES, SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM CAMPBELL, TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Charles Town 2d Janry [September] 1775 <sup>2</sup>

I beg leave by your means to acquaint the Committee that as I have submitted to be their prisoner to avoid all possibility of giving them offence I have order'd those few arms I possess (which are only such as Gentlemen generally have to protect them from Insult) on board the *Tamar*. –

If I have acted in this matter differently from any other Gentleman it does not proceed from the least wish to appear singular but from a persuasion that our bases are totally different.

I will not detain you any longer Sir on this very trifling subject, I shall only add that concessions which cannot be submitted to with honor, the Committee will I dare say think it below them to insist on.

I am Sir [&c.]

Alex: Innes

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 194, 195.

2. This letter is misdated, or the transcriber for the magazine misread "Sepr" for "Janry." Innes fled on board the *Tamer* on Sept. 6, 1775, the day before the arrival of the *Cherokee* (see his letter of Oct. 15, 1775 to W Penman). This letter, therefore, was probably written a few days before his flight, or logically, Sept. 2.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

No 23

Bermuda 2d of Septemr. 1775

My Lord My former letters will inform your Lordship of the Powder Magazine being broke into, and most Violently, and audaciously forced open, in the night of the 14th of August, when most of the Gentlemen of the assembly were come to Town, agreeable to the last Adjournment. The above Villanous Scheme was Effected when least expected.

I have repeatedly Represented the Necessity and want of some Soldiers here, or a Sloop of War, but never expected that I should have so great Cause of Complaint as the above mentioned most Villanous Crime hath now Shewn.

The Civil officers of Government here, are very few, and those generally put in to office without any Recommendation from the Governor, and are dispersed in the Country.

Many People here practice a most Scandalous Calling and that is, by taking their Vessels Yearly & Constantly under pretence of going to Turks Islands for Salt, they go to a place they call the Cacosos, or a bunch of small Islands, Rocks or Sandy Banks, and there lye for months, upon the Watch for Ships or Vessels of any Nation, that may have the Misfortune to be cast on the Banks and Rocks there; when they themselves by Constant Practice, and use to the place, are so good Pilots as to escape all danger themselves.

This practice must of course make the People, and their Negroes that use it, most ferocious and Accustome their Negroes to plunder, and to be public, as well as private thieves. And Your Lordship must remember, how I reported the[y] had Pumps and Rigging of a fine Ship from Ireland Cutt away and Carried off, and the Hulk of the Ship being gott off, and towed into Harbour is now sold and Repairing.<sup>2</sup> If they have no Success at the Cacosos, by that Scandalous practice, they go to Turks Islands, take in some Salt and Passengers, and return home And such as do not follow this practice, go to the West Indies, from Island to Island, Searching for freight and visit all the Islands, belonging to foreign Powers, such as St. Eustatious, Curaco, Senta Cruz, St Thomas &c &c.

Their Sloops or Brigantines crew are generally as follows. The Person that may be Part owner for a Captain or rather Director, the Mate doing the Duty as Captain, or rather Swearing Master, the rest all Negroes then in Case any thing of Contraband Goods is to be taken in, or discharged, the Swearing Captain may step aside, and the Negroes and their leader Complete the Business.

And by this practice of imploying a Number of Negroes Great Britain loseth the Nursery of White Sailors and their Mal Practices are easily carried on.

Besides the Carpenters, Masons, Blacksmiths, and Ship Carpenters are almost all Negroes. And the White People presume to be Gentlemen.

I shall likewise Recommend to His Majesty once more that it is as necessary that there should be one company of Soldiers quartered at the West end of these Islands, in Barracks Seperate from the People, and another Company at the East end, distributed in the Castle, fort and fortifications here, and likewise the frigates of War passing and repassing, to and from the West Indies, to Call as oportunity may offer which they may do with the greatest Safety, if our Pilots will look out for

their arrival properly. And Sir Richard Bickerton can give Your Lordship farther information if You please to Shew Him this letter, in respect to the Situation or Navigation to Bermuda. My Lord since Delegates have been chose here, and the Congress at Philadelphia Petitioned under pretence that they might want Provisions, notwithstanding they had at that time more than they could either purchase or consume in Six or 8 Months, it is much to be feared, that the Inhabitants either of Philadelphia or South Carolina, might be encouraged to come here, and taken the Powder, and leave Bread, flour, or Rice in lieu.

Since these Delegates have been Appointed, at first at the Sudden Instigation of a few, there seems to be but very few friends to Government. And our Sloops may be employed against His Majestys Troops, or good Subjects next, or the Cannon taken away.

I don't as yet know how I shall get this letter Conveyed to Your Lordship, as they have prevented any Person from hiring or chartering their Vessel to Me, either to send to Boston or anywhere else.

I am in very great Grief and Anxiety My Lord, for in the Rebels News papers, altho' very erroneous, and many falsehoods in them, both my Sons, very promising Youths, are Said to be Killed, and I know nothing to the Contrary.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Ja<sup>s</sup> Bruere

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

2. *Ibid.* The ship *Industry*, which was wrecked off Bermuda in late August or September 1774, and which is described in a letter from Bruere to Dartmouth, dated January 24, 1775.